UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
LIMITED

E/ECA/PSD.4/20
17 December 1985

Original : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fourth session of the Joint Conference
of African Planners, Statisticians
and Demographers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-12 March 1986

LC/NAIROBI.

REPORT OF FOURTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRES PARTICIPATING IN THE STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA (STPA)

Table of contents

		Paragraphs
A.	Attendance and organization of work	1-7
B.	Agenda	8
C.	Account of proceedings	9-12
D.	Matters arising from the third meeting	13-20
E.	Evaluation of STPA and future work programme	21-37
F.	Impact of guide syllabus for training at STPA centres, other training centres and statistical offices	
	- Guide syllabus for middle level statistical training	38-42
	- Guide syllabus for in-service statistical training	43-50
G.	Guide syllabus for professional level statistical training..	51-62
H.	Programme of workshops and seminars for 1986-1987	63-74
I.	Special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries.	75-79
J.	Technical and financial assistance in the field of statistical training	80-104
K.	Dissemiantion of information on training activities.....	105-108
L.	Other business	109-112

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The fourth meeting of Directors of the centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) was held at ECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 4 to 8 November 1985. A message from the ECA Executive Secretary was read by Mr. Makramalla, Chief, Socio-Economic Research and Planning Division, at the opening session.

2. The meeting was attended by the Directors or representatives of the following STPA centres: Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes des pays en voie de développement (CESD), Paris; Collège statistique, Ecole nationale d'économie appliquée (ENEA), Dakar; Department of Statistics, University College of Botswana, Gaborone; Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan, Ibadan; Ecole nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ENSEA), Abidjan; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), Dar-es-Salaam; Institut africain et mauricien de statistique et d'économie appliquée (IAMSEA), Kigali; Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), Yaoundé; Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, (ISAE), Makerere University, Kampala; Institut sous-régional de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ISSEA), Yaoundé; Regional Institute of Population Studies (RIPS), Legon; Institut national de statistique et d'économie appliquée (INSEA), Rabat.

3. The representatives of the following user countries also participated in the meeting: Cameroon, Nigeria, Lesotho and Mozambique.

4. Two STPA associate centres were also represented, namely, International Statistical Programs Centre (ISPC), Washington, D.C. and Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for developing countries, Munich.

5. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) were represented.

6. Representatives of the following institutions and organizations also participated in the meeting as observers: National Central Bureau of Statistics, Sweden; African Development Bank (ADB); Commission of the European Communities (Directorate-General for Development and Statistical Office of the European Communities); Institute of Statisticians; Department of Statistics of the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne; International Statistical Institute (ISI) and Centre de formation statistique, ENAM, Centrafrique.

7. Mr. Antoine Houehougbe, Co-ordinator of Studies, IFORD, was elected Chairman of the meeting, with Dr. R.K. Pillai, Head, Department of Statistics, University College of Botswana, as Vice-chairman and Dr. P.O. Namfua, Acting Director, EASTC as Rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

8. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening address
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

4. Matters arising from the third meeting of Directors of centres participating in the STPA
5. Evaluation of STPA and future work programme
6. Impact of guide syllabuses for training at STPA centres, other training centres and statistical offices
   (a) Guide syllabus for middle-level statistical training
   (b) Guide syllabus for in-service statistical training
7. co-operative development of teaching programmes
   (a) Draft guide syllabus for professional level statistical training
   (b) Programme of workshops and seminars for 1986-1987
8. Special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries in the field of statistical training
9. Technical and Financial assistance in the field of statistical training
   (a) European Economic Community (EEC)
   (b) United Nations system
   (c) Bilateral and other multilateral agencies and institutions
10. Dissemination of information on training activities
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the report

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening address

9. In his message, the Executive Secretary recalled the main objectives of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) and pointed out its role in the present context of the African economic and social crisis. He asked whether, in the past seven years of its existence, STPA had helped to train enough statisticians of acceptable quality to provide reliable and up-to-date statistical data for the management of African economies.

10. The findings of the secretariat's internal evaluation of STPA offered a good opportunity to discuss the achievements of the programme and to make concrete proposals for its future direction. He outlined some of the conclusions drawn from the evaluation exercise. It appeared that the objectives of the programme had not yet been fully achieved despite significant progress made since its inception.

11. Three things must be done if the objectives of STPA were to be met. First, action should be taken to integrate national institutions offering professional level statistical training into the overall STPA programme in order to meet the statistical training needs of the region, especially in the English-speaking countries. Secondly, national facilities for training middle-level statistical staff, including in-service training, must be established or expanded and one or two regional centres offering training at this level must be maintained and even strengthened for use by small countries where the establishment of national facilities was not justifiable. Thirdly, the statistical training needs of the Portuguese-speaking African countries must be given due attention.

12. Inspite of the present economic crisis, additional resources would have to be placed at the disposal of STPA for the next few years to enable STPA centres to contribute fully to the achievement of the Programme's objectives. He noted with pleasure the assistance offered by EEC in allocating a sum of ECU 1,025,000 (approximately 820,000 US$) to STPA from the regional programme of the Lome II Convention; the Community was prepared to consider further assistance from the Lome Convention if a specific request was made by the African countries. External assistance would be required for a number of years to come for the continued development of African statistical training. African Governments should ensure that an adequate number of fellowships were made available from either national or external resources for statistical training at STPA centres.

D. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE THIRD MEETING (agenda item 4)

13. A summary of the main issues arising from the third meeting of Directors of STPA centres was provided by the secretariat. These covered the development of STPA, co-operative development of teaching programmes, joint EEC/ACP/ECA study on statistical needs for Africa and dissemination of information on training activities.

14. On the question of an input by Directors of STPA centres into the content of the final agenda for the fourth meeting, the secretariat informed the meeting that the agenda was circulated on time but no comments were received from the Directors of the STPA centres.

15. At the request of the third meeting of Directors of STPA centres, an internal evaluation of the STPA had been undertaken. The donor agency, UNDP, had conducted a tripartite review of the project in October 1985.

16. On the training of trainers, the secretariat had reached the conclusion that for trainers in centres offering undergraduate and graduate courses a doctorate programme might be necessary; for trainers from middle-level training centres, however, no training beyond a Master's degree would be funded from the STPA regional component. The question of setting up a centre within the Africa region offering short term courses, workshops and seminars had also been considered. The secretariat's view was that it was not appropriate to set up a separate centre: existing STPA centres should be used during vacations. There was a need for proper co-ordination with institutions such as the Munich Centre and the US Bureau of the Census to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts.

17. Regarding the determination of centres to be considered as STPA centres, the secretariat's view was that no more centres should be admitted until the existing ones had been fully developed in terms of teaching staff and intake. The Division of Statistics, University of Nairobi had in any case not met the criteria for admission. The search for associate centres, in particular, centres where French was used, was continuing.

18. A guide syllabus adapted to the conditions of the Portuguse-speaking countries had been prepared and a consultant appointed to start training activities in Sao Tome and Principe and Guinea Bissau. A project document on in-service training had been prepared for Mozambique.

19. The paper on the evaluation of STPA (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/1) partially answered the suggestions made in the joint EEC/ACP/ECA study on the statistical needs of Africa that a study should be made by the secretariat on progress made during the first five years of the programme.

20. For the purposes of disseminating information on training activities as requested at the third meeting of Directors, associate centres had been included in the Directory; a directory of non-STPA centres had also been compiled although responses to the request for information had been received from only seven such centres.

E. EVALUATION OF STPA AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME (agenda item 5)

21. The secretariat introduced the agenda item which was based on document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/1. The secretariat focused on three main topics:

(a) evaluation of the performance of the STPA centres from the time the programme was established in 1978 to the present.

(b) evaluation of the activities undertaken within the framework of STPA; and

(c) proposed work programme to guide future activities for the development of the overall STPA programme.

22. With respect to the first topic it concluded that considerable progress had been made by the STPA centres in increasing the number of trained African statisticians. However, the objectives set had not been fully attained as far as quantity was concerned because only part of the estimated requirements, especially for professional statisticians for English-speaking African countries and middle level statisticians for French-speaking African countries had been met.

23. With respect to the second topic, particular attention had been given to activities relating to (a) the dissemination of information on training activities, (b) maintenance of equivalence of curricula and qualifications and the review and re-orientation of course programmes (c) middle level in-service training, (d) organization of short-term courses and seminars by STPA centres and associate centres, (e) training of trainers and (f) the co-ordination of all the activities of the programme. He however pointed out that the development of higher-level university training and specialization had not worked out as expected during the period under review and that special attention should be paid to that question in the future.

24. With respect to the third topic he called upon the meeting to adopt the work programme proposed in paragraph 85 of the document under consideration, subject to any amendments it might wish to make.

25. At the invitation of the Chairman, the representative of UNDP made a brief statement on the conclusions and recommendations of the tripartite review meeting on the UNDP-financed STPA project which had been held in Addis Ababa on 10 October 1985. The project had successfully established an effective system of subregional

statistical training centres. While the strengthening of basic facilities seemed to have been completed, the crucial problem that remained was the under-utilization of subregional centres because of a shortage of funds which would have permitted member States to send students for training at the Centres. The most appropriate solution would be the increased use of the indicative planning figures of UNDP and the country programmes established by donors such as the European Economic Community (EEC). The establishment of subregional facilities co-ordinated by a central programme had made STPA operational.

26. With respect to the future of the project he said that activities were expected to continue as before with some modifications or stress on the following aspects:

(a) Training of trainers would take into account the various systems of education in the various countries;

(b) Middle level in-service training, particularly in Portuguese-speaking African countries, would be given greater priority;

(c) Technical co-operation among developing countries would be used to provide consultants for short periods in specialized areas; and

(d) The post-university programmes of some centres would be supported while strengthening their training facilities at the degree or diplôme d'ingénieur des travaux statistiques (ITS) level.

27. The meeting congratulated the secretariat for successfully carrying out the current evaluation of STPA. Discussions focussed on the three topics proposed by the secretariat in its introduction.

28. Several speakers expressed reservations as to the reliability of the figures used by the secretariat to evaluate the performance of the STPA centres. It was explained that the figures had been obtained from the 1977 survey carried out at the time the programme was established, from missions organized in 1982 and 1983 as part of the joint EEC/ACP/ECA study on the statistical training requirements of African countries and from the centres themselves during a recent survey on the number of graduates from 1979 to 1984. Despite their shortcomings, the figures were a reasonable basis for work which would permit a reorientation of the future activities of STPA. The meeting was of the opinion that countries and centres should, as far as possible, endeavour to provide the secretariat with reliable figures on their estimated requirements for statisticians. One representative spoke about the experience of his country which organized a survey on needs with respect to statisticians every five years. A questionnaire on the subject was sent to public and parastatal agencies.

29. Regarding the quoted numbers of statistical staff, which suggested that in 1982 there were almost as many senior as middle-level statisticians employed in the French-speaking African countries, some participants explained that middle-level staff often hoped to become senior staff members. As a result, these same people could be counted two or even three times. The secretariat added that national courses for training middle-level staff in statistics had been in existence in French-speaking African countries for only two or three years, as opposed to the English-speaking countries in most of which such courses had been established a number of years ago. This was also an explanation for the figures.

30. Responding to the comment that some countries had difficulty in getting candidates admitted to the entrance examinations for certain STPA centres, the Director of CESD said that his centre, in collaboration with the Abidjan, Kigali and Yaounde schools, had been publishing for many years a list of topics covered by those examinations. Additional efforts would be made to publish an amended list. In April 1985, CESD had sent a consultant to Burundi to oversee the final preparation by candidates for the examinations. It was too early to draw proper conclusions, but the Burundian candidates in the examination for statisticians had achieved rather gratifying results. The Director also suggested that co-ordinating preparations for the examinations should be the responsibility of the heads of the national training courses for middle-level staff. Burundi and the Central African Republic had plans to apply such a system.

31. The meeting considered that it was very important to bring the curricula and admission requirements for national training courses for middle-level statistical staff into line, particularly in view of the desire by such staff to continue their studies at a higher level. Closer collaboration between the national courses and the STPA centres was suggested in this connection. The Director of CESD reported that his centre was planning to organize one-day courses on the training of middle-level staff in 1986: ECA would be informed later of the exact dates.

32. Participants stressed the need to take account of the different situations applying to the training of trainers in Africa. At the Abidjan centre, for example, the teaching staff had to hold doctorate degrees in conformity with the Ivory Coast's current regulations, while at the Kigali centre attention focused mainly on the practical training of teaching staff, particularly in applied statistics. It was pointed out that the conduct of research activities at the centres also contributed to the practical training of the teaching staff. Some participants considered that the secretariat's suggestion of making applicants for trainer-training fellowships sign an undertaking to serve their original centre for at least five years would not help to stop the loss of teaching staff once they were trained. Attention should be turned instead to improving the conditions of appointment and employment of teaching staff. In reply to specific questions from the Director of the Kigali IAMSEA, the secretariat said that ECA was ready to help the Institute identify African statistical services which could accept its teaching staff for short training courses. As for the possible absorption of such courses within the regional element of STPA funded by UNDP, the secretariat would have to consider the IAMSEA request in the light of all the requests received and the resources available. The programme concerned with EEC assistance to STPA also provided for the funding of such activities.

33. The representative of ISPC, US Bureau of the Census, said that ISPC offered special-purpose programmes, in Washington, for the training of trainers which enabled participants to enroll in post-graduate diploma or joint master's degree courses. Participants would work with ISPC instructional staff on the co-operative development of teaching materials in the specialization selected; the materials, modelled on those used in the ISPC programme would be adapted to the needs of an STPA centre. Participants would also be able to attend special seminars and meeting of professional societies devoted to the dissemination of information on latest instructional methods, so as to improve their performance as instructors. The duration of the training-of-trainers programme at ISPC might be as little as three months; 18 months would enable participants to earn a master's degree while in the United States. In view of the STPA policy of encouraging the development of post-graduate specialized training in Africa, the training-of-trainers programmes at ISPC should be given due consideration.

34. Participants stressed the need to emphasize the development of higher university education, including specialization, which also had its role to play in the training of trainers. Some speakers called for a detailed analysis of this matter, and said that machinery needed to be introduced to support such training. The Director of ISAE, Kampala, said that his centre was planning to set up a nine-months higher university education programme. Specialist options would be offered in national accounting, computer data processing, economic statistics, agricultural statistics, census techniques, demography and social statistics. The Director of the Department of Statistics at the University of Ibadan corrected the information provided in paragraph 51 of the document under discussion by stating that the MSc and post-graduate diploma courses offered by his centre allowed for specialization. The Director of CESD said that in current circumstances his centre could probably not continue to support the training of ISEs (statistician-economists) in Paris for more than five years. He therefore recommended taking up the practical tasks involved in opening ISE sections in the Abidjan and Yaounde centres. The project concerned with EEC assistance to STPA already provided for assistance to those two centres in establishing ISE courses; CESD was ready to provide pedagogical help. Once ISE training had been transferred to Africa, CESD would concern itself with other activities conducive to statistical development in Africa, such as permanent training of staff, organisation of common entrance examinations for French-speaking African centres, statistical research and applied economics.

35. On the question of fellowships for study at STPA centres, some speakers expressed concern at the chances of securing a sufficient number of scholarships from indicative planning figures or national programmes since statistics was not yet accorded the importance it deserved in most African countries. The fault lay partly with statisticians themselves, who did not manage to produce the necessary data for economic and social planning in good time. The situation should be remedied, so as to increase awareness of the value of statistics in the process of economic and social development. At the same time, efforts should be made to make the authorities aware of the importance of statistics. One speaker suggested a study by the secretariat on the losses stemming from difficulties in obtaining fellowships for study at STPA centres.

36. One speaker expressed the hope that the centres would be provided with a list of consultants available for teaching assignments of short duration in various specialized fields. Another reported on a seminar held in Brazzaville in November 1984 which had been attended by statistics producers and users. The seminar had been organized jointly by the French Government, OSCE and CESD.

37. At the end of its discussions on this item, the meeting adopted the work programme appearing in Annex I as a guide for future action to develop the overall STPA programme.

F. IMPACT OF GUIDE SYLLABUS FOR TRAINING AT STPA CENTRES, OTHER TRAINING CENTRES AND STATISTICAL OFFICES (agenda item 6)

a) Guide syllabus for middle-level statistical training

38. The secretariat introduced the background document (E/ECA/STPA/PM.4/2) and a related document (ST/ECA/STPA/DM.2/3/Rev.1), and said that it dealt with STPA centres offering middle level statistical training in the African region, the syllabuses being used at the training centres, a comparative analysis of the syllabuses in terms of subjects and hours covered per subject in the syllabuses of the centres and the guide syllabus.

39. In the discussion which followed, some participants asked what the objectives of middle level training programmes were, in particular the relation between middle level and higher level training and whether middle level training programmes were being regionalised. The secretariat informed the meeting that the working group on the STPA which had met in 1977 in Munich had dealt with those issues. When the STPA was launched, a few middle level training centres had been identified so that a group of countries could use them on a regional basis. The idea was that in-service statistical training programmes in the individual countries would gradually take over the certificate level training programme while the regional centres continued to handle diploma level training which in the long run would also be phased out.

40. On the secretariat's report concerning the poor response to the request for information on the syllabuses of STPA centres conducting middle level training, the meeting wanted to know what prevented the STPA centres from responding to the request since this would be useful in future enquiries of this nature. The secretariat explained that the omission of INSEA (Rabat) from the comparative analysis of STPA centres that offered middle level training in statistics was an oversight and that INSEA would be included in future comparative exercises. The head of the Department of Statistics, University of Ibadan pointed out that the professional diploma in statistics programme of the Department was a middle level programme and should have been included in the exercise. The secretariat explained that the Department of Statistics of the University of Ibadan had not been included in the exercise because it had been felt that the Department's professional diploma in statistics was of a higher level than that of similar courses offered at other centres. The secretariat agreed to include the Department of Statistics of the University of Ibadan in its future comparative analyses after the Nigerian representative had explained how graduates of the course were classified by his Government, as middle level cadre in contrast to those doing post-graduate diploma.

41. The meeting's discussions on the guide syllabus revealed that it was being used to formulate and reformulate national and subregional teaching programmes at existing training centres or institutions and would probably be used by new centres particularly in French-speaking African countries. The representative of the CS-Dakar centre explained why the guide syllabus could not be used in the Agent technique course.

42. With respect to the next revision of the guide syllabus, participants felt that the level of mathematics of some trainees who hoped to do professional level training and obtain a degree in statistics after the diploma level, needed to be upgraded and requested the secretariat to reformulate the mathematics content of the guide syllabus to enable trainees to meet the challenge of a degree programme in statistics.

b) Guide syllabus for in-service statistical training

43. The secretariat introduced the background documents (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/3), (E/ECA/STPA/DM.3/12) and explained that they dealt with the guide syllabus for in-service statistical training and the utilisation of the guide syllabus for in-service statistical training programmes in African countries.

44. In the discussions which followed, participants wondered whether the goals of in-service training programmes would be attained through departmental courses. It was noted that statistical offices were divided into different structures where different offices performed different duties.

45. In the French-speaking countries promotion is always subject to passing a written examination. Undertaking a course in the statistical office was unlikely to lead to automatic promotion in the service. In one country, namely Senegal, an in-service training programme had enabled executive officers to pass entrance examinations in the section of agent technique of CS-Dakar centre. The in-service training programme had been successful because there were incentives which motivated the participants to undertake the course seriously. Generally in most French-speaking countries recommendations on in-service training programmes could not be adopted. This was partly due to a lack of motivation and to the existing situation in the civil services.

46. Participants also felt that in-service training could improve the service and qualifications of candidates. The STPA centres would play a role if qualifications were considered important. Countries would need assistance to implement the recommendations of the guide syllabus and to award certificates at the end of the course. In some countries, promotion depended largely on the certificates obtained. The demand of the countries for training had increased with time; unfortunately the capacity of training centres to absorb new trainees had not kept pace with the increased demand.

47. It was agreed that although it was too early to measure the impact of the guide syllabus on national statistical offices the lack of motivation for trainees should be emphasized. The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers should draw the attention of African governments to the terms and conditions of service in the various countries. It was suggested that the draft of an appropriate recommendation should be prepared which would go a long way to solving some of the brain drain problems faced by most countries.

48. The secretariat was requested to consider undertaking more missions on in-service training to provide technical assistance to countries in the implementation of their programmes.

49. The secretariat explained that the electronic data processing guide syllabus had been inlcuded in the guide syllabus for professional training in statistics. Participants felt that there was a need to develop a guide syllabus on the vital subject of data processing suitable for in-service training programmes in the national statistical offices.

50. It was becoming increasingly difficult to provide incentives to those undertaking in-service training courses because of the prevailing economic climate in most African countries. The co-ordination of departments of statistics and training institutes such as universities in running in-service training programmes might equally be affected by the present economic climate particularly in cases where governments are required to subsidize the programmes.

G. GUIDE SYLLABUS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEVEL STATISTICAL TRAINING (agenda item 7a)

51. The secretariat introduced the three background documents provided by the secretariat for discussions under the agenda item: Draft guide syllabus for professional level statistical training: basic principles and assumptions (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/4), draft guide syllabus for professional statistical training for English-speaking countries (E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/5) and Project de programme type de formation

statistique au niveau superieur pour les pays africains francophone (E/ECA/STPA/DM4/6) and said that all the basic assumptions which had been made when designing the English and French syllabuses might not apply to all centres and that they could be modified to suit conditions at specific centres.

52. The meeting decided to limit discussions to an overview of the syllabuses, the selection of subjects, the inclusion of mathematics, economics and accounting and other policy issues; detailed amendments to any part of the syllabus should be submitted in writing to the secretariat.

53. It was generally felt that not enough time had been allocated in the English guide syllabus for the courses covered in the first two years and that there were too many courses in the third year. Participants also felt too many options had been offered in the third year. It was suggested that a course on economic and social statistics should be offered in the second year for those wishing to specialise in official statistics during the third year.

54. In response to the comments on the course structure and content, the secretariat said that most criticisms on the number of official statistics courses had come from academics. Those in charge of official statistics who were the users of the outputs of the training centres were generally satisfied with the syllabus which prepared graduates from the centres to deal with the type of statistics they would eventually encounter in national statistics offices.

55. Participants wanted to know whether economics for statisticians was any different from economics as taught to other categories of students. Some participants felt that if "economics for statisticians" was included in the guide syllabus provision should also be made for agricultural economics.

56. Some participants felt that since there were a lot of statistical publications and articles in French, English-speaking centres should be strongly encouraged to teach French and that the guide syllabus should stress that point.

57. The secretariat said that although the English syllabus included two courses on economics, one for the first year and the other for the second year, the consultants had felt that candidates from the statistics departments would normally select one of the available courses in economics rather than have a completely new course designed for them. The guide syllabus had therefore made allowance for this. It was however possible that in some institutions special courses could be organized after consulting the economics department. With respect to the teaching of French, the consultants had felt the same as the meeting but had left the door open because of the practical problems involved in implementing any relevant recommendations.

58. In the discussions on the French guide syllabus, it was noted that the preamble of the syllabus had clearly recognised the main functions of a statistician of which data analysis was only a part. However, in the actual presentation of the guide syllabus, emphasis appeared to have been accorded to analysis. The secretariat explained that the applied statistics courses proposed in the French syllabus accounted for approximately 25 per cent of the total allocation of time and that the syllabus had attempted to reconcile the views expressed by users and trainers during the missions undertaken by the consultants.

59. Many participants mentioned the need to provide the centres without such equipment with a network of computer or micro-computer facilities and to begin offering courses on statistical computing. They stressed the need to hire technicians to maintain the computer equipment.

60. With respect to the reading list for the English syllabus, it was felt that some of the books recommended for the first year were too advanced for use as text-books. The secretariat explained that the reading list contained not only textbooks for the students but also reference materials for the lecturers and that the consultants did not consider it necessary or unwise to indicate which books were to be recommended textbooks and which reference material for all the courses listed because it would appear that some of those are being favoured instead of others. The ultimate choice will rest with the teacher. It was suggested that the costs of textbooks could be reduced and more of them made available by using mimeographed notes or producing small booklets of notes. It was proposed that STPA centres and associate centres, should pool their resources to jointly produce textbooks. It was suggested that those centres that currently prepared mimeographed lecture notes could circulate them to other centres. The secretariat could also disseminate such teaching material.

61. There was considerable discussion on whether a centre was needed in Africa to train students who had already passed the Stage II examinations of the Institute of Statisticians (IOS) to sit for the final stage of the graduate diploma of that Institute. The observer from the Institute said that the IOS was ready to assist in monitoring a programme which was prepared purely in the African context. There would be no problem of exemptions from the IOS provided the IOS moderated the course content and the final examinations. The secretariat indicated that in discussions elsewhere it had appeared that the problem of providing training facilities for the graduate diploma of the IOS was one which particularly concerned the English-speaking countries of Eastern and Southern Africa. The Acting Director of the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) indicated that funding problems had to be considered and solved before any concrete proposals with respect to admitting additional candidates to EASTC could be considered by the EASTC Advisory Board. The meeting agreed that further work needed to be done by the secretariat and that the topic should be put on the agenda for the next meeting and requested the secretariat to prepare a document on it.

62. The meeting approved both syllabuses subject to the amendments proposed for the guide syllabus for English-speaking countries. It was suggested that ECA should take steps to have the syllabus approved by the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers and the ECA Conference of Ministers and take appropriate follow-up action for the use of the syllabuses by centres specialising in professional statistical training in Africa.

H. PROGRAMME OF WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS FOR 1986-1987 (agenda item 7b)

63. The secretariat introduced document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/7 and explained that although the associate centres had been very active, the actual STPA centres had held few courses or seminars between 1983 and 1985 for want of qualified staff and finance.

For the organization of the future programme, the secretariat was ready to co-ordinate all short-duration training activities, and suggested the following system:

- approval by the meeting of a list of subjects on which courses would be held;

- establishment of priorities by the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;

- compilation by each centre of its own programme of courses and seminars in the light of these priorities;

- preparation by the secretariat of an overall programme of STPA centre activities;

- distribution of the programme;

- execution of activities by the Centres, using their own capacity first; the secretariat would help by interceding with donor agencies and sending experts and lecturers.

64. There was unanimous agreement among the representatives of the training centres that the centres could not be asked to fund activities themselves, since they were already having problems with the ordinary organization of training courses. One speaker suggested that ECA should provide a general estimate of the costs of organizing all courses held within the general framework of STPA, and should co-ordinate and oversee efforts to secure funding.

65. It was suggested that the STPA centres and associate centres should collaborate, and that the associate centres should organize a number of courses in Africa, making use of local capacity to adapt statistical techniques to actual conditions in the region.

66. It was also indicated that a distinction should be drawn between regional and national refresher courses, because national courses fell within the purview of national statistical authorities. It was suggested that CESD should become a retraining centre for the French-speaking countries in view of the forthcoming transfer of its ISE division to ENSEA in Abidjan and ISSEA in Yaounde.

67. The representative of the Munich Centre presented his Centre's programme for the period 1986 to 1989.

68. The representative of ISPC, U.S. Bureau of the Census, said that his agency was interested in co-operating with STPA centres in offering short courses and workshops. It should be noted that ISPC was a provider of training and not a funding agency. It shared the problem of STPA centres in needing to identify donors to support its efforts. However, in the case of joint courses or workshops with STPA centres, it would help with funding. Interested STPA centres should contact ISPC, preferably through the local USAID Mission, requesting a specific short-course or workshop and specifying topic and duration, possible dates, the number and characteristics of expected participants and other similar details.

69. The training courses listed in paragraphs 30 and 31 of document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/7 were offered annually in Washington, and were offered in addition to the country and subregional workshops in response to specific requests given in English, French or Spanish.

70. The representative of the Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, England, gave details of the courses offered in the University's Summer Schools and explained that an M.Sc. could be obtained by attending two summer schools and carrying out a project. Special arrangements could be made for overseas students, including short courses prior to the summer schools where desirable. The courses contained in the M.Sc. programme were practical in orientation, and involved tutorials, computing, and the provision of textbooks.

71. In response to a question about the M.Sc. course, he said that the teaching for the course was available in two separate summer schools; the period between the two summers could be utilised for supervised reading. In full-time M.Sc. courses, the teaching was continuous from October to March. For many students this pace was very fast, and lecturing in two separate periods was a better arrangement. Some students might be found positions in government agencies where they could get work experience between the two summers.

72. The representative of the Institute of Statisticians, who was also representing Applied Statistics Research Unit (ASRU), University of Kent at Canterbury, said that the ASRU booklet showed that many courses could be offered just where they were needed, with the provision that those involving statistical computing would depend on local facilities being available. Individual consultants, often people who have had plenty of experience in applied statistics, could also be found relatively easily, at least for short-term tasks. ASRU would be one of the sources of expertise available to the Institute of Statisticians in its role as agent of the EEC; a number of similar groups in the U.K. were not associate centres.

73. The secretariat said that Centres were not being asked to fund their courses and seminars themselves, but they should make efforts to become self-sufficient. ECA always offered assistance to Centres in securing the external funds for courses and seminars.

74. Concluding its discussion of this item, the meeting endorsed the system of co-ordination drawn up for the preparation and organization of courses and seminars by STPA centres. It also agreed on a broad list of topics for courses and seminars for submission to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers so that it could define the priorities for the execution of the STPA centres' programmes of courses and seminars.

I. SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES (agenda item 8)

75. In the introduction to documents E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/8 and E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/13, the secretariat recalled the new directives adopted by the third meeting of Directors of STPA centres for special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries in the area of statistical training. The secretariat told the meeting about the various activities undertaken by ECA since November 1983.

76. In the discussions that followed, certain participants pointed out the two main problems in the training of students from these countries at the STPA centres namely, the language of instruction and admission tests.

77. With respect to the language of instruction, the representative of the Collège statistique de Dakar said that almost all the Portuguese-speaking students had an imperfect command of French but that some additional courses in French would be sufficient to overcome that handicap. However, because of their poor level in mathematics, the students would not stand a chance of obtaining admission to the STPA centres if they had to sit for the common entrance examination to the Kigali, Yaoundé and Abidjan centres. Preliminary training of two months should be organized for those students with the assistance of ECA.

78. Concerning the use of the Collège statistique de Dakar to train students from Portuguese-speaking African countries, (Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau), as ingénieurs des travaux statistiques on a permanent basis, the representative of CESD said that in order to satisfy the needs of Portuguese-speaking African countries, the Collège statistique de Dakar would have to recruit annually. The French-speaking statistical centres of the region (Abidjan, Kigali, Yaoundé) would have to be requested to consider the possibility of training ingénieurs de travaux statistiques for the Portuguese-speaking countries as the Collège statistique de Dakar was already doing. The additional expenditure incurred because of that adjustment could be met by external sources of funds. The representative of CESD informed the meeting that the imminent membership of Spain and Portugal in the European Economic Community could bring about the establishment in Portugal of a counterpart centre to CESD for training statisticians from Portuguese-speaking African countries.

79. Participants felt that, in the short run, middle-level in-service training programmes needed to be organized with the assistance of STPA and donors and that other STPA centres should be assisted to admit Portuguese-speaking students for higher-level training. In the long run, the establishment of a special centre for Portuguese-speaking African countries should be envisaged.

J. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF STATISTICAL TRAINING (agenda item 9)

80. The secretariat summarized document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/9b and explained that fellowships for training in statistics were included in national projects financed by UNDP from country indicative planning figures and in population projects financed by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Two types of training were directly financed from the regular budget of the Department for Technical Co-operation and Development (DTCD): in-service training programme under Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and training programmes in the areas of statistics and data processing in collaboration with the Soviet Union as part of the Soviet Union's contribution to the technical assistance programme of the United Nations.

81. The representative of the Commission of European Communities (EEC) gave the background to the project financed for STPA (1,025,000 ECU) at the request of the ACP Council of Ministers, the Commission had financed a study (100,000 ECU) on the status of statistical training in Africa and on the requirements of the centres for the next decade. The facilities of the Centres needed to be strengthened and relationships with Governments and users improved.

82. With respect to the implementation and follow-up of the project, a Steering Committee had met in December 1984 and should meet again in the first half of 1986. The following activities had been carried out: (a) provision of technical assistance and teaching equipment, twinning of English-speaking centres and study tours to English-speaking centres (phase I), (b) organization of competitive recruitment examinations; (c) organization of sensitization seminars between producers and users of statistics; (d) provision of assistance in Africanizing the centres. Remaining to be realised in 1986: assistance to English-speaking African centres (Phase II), teaching equipment and transfer of ISE training to Abidjan and Yaounde.

83. The representative of OSCE provided technical details on the implementation of the above-mentioned points.

84. The representative of the EEC noted that their priorities were provision of computer equipment for the centres and assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries. In that respect, a new project could be envisaged with the assistance of the Commission within the limits of available resources and a request should be made within the framework of the Lome Convention.

85. The UNDP representative observed that the STPA was an excellent example of co-operation amongst various donors to achieve the same objective. During the first phase of the project (1978-1981) about US$1 million was spent and during the second phase (1982-1986) a total provision of US$1.6 million was made. With regard to possible assistance to STPA from 1987 onwards, he pointed out that this would be a matter for consultation between ECA and UNDP.

86. Participants pointed out that fellowships were of crucial importance and requested UNDP and EEC not to overlook that aspect. In reply, the representative of the Commission of European Communities said that the Commission could not allocate funds from the EDF regional programme to finance fellowships; he recalled that during the first Lome Convention, 5.4 million ECU had been utilized from national programmes to finance fellowships in the field of statistics and this has to be followed. On the other hand, the Commission was prepared to find a practical solution on how to improve the training of trainers under the regional programme. Participants also asked questions on EEC assistance under the Lome Convention.

87. The representative of ISSEA wondered whether the EEC could provide assistance in expanding the facilities of the Centre because of the transfer of the ISE Division of CESD to the Yaounde and Abidjan Centres. In response the representative of EEC asked the ISSEA to approach the local EEC delegation on this matter since the extension of buildings are not included in EDF project assistance to STPA.

88. The representative of ISAE, mentioned the requirements of STPA centres which include lecturers, fellowships for trainees and trainers, equipment, accommodation and laboratories. For a few centres these requirements have not been met by UNDP assistance. He also referred to the problems of short term consultants at centres and mentioned the need for new thinking in the area of consultants. He emphasized the need for long term experts. On the question of self-reliance of African governments, he requested, with the support of the representative of the University of Ibadan, that a resolution known as "OAU Fellowship Programme", which would be used to provide fellowships to country nationals to study at STPA centres outside their country, should be drafted and presented to the OAU Conference of Ministers through the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. Such a resolution should emphasize special funds for statistics. A representative of the secretariat mentioned that resolutions of this nature would normally be handled by the ECA Conference of Ministers.

89. The representative of University of Ibadan referred to the lack of information on the contributions of other donor agencies to STPA. The secretariat informed him that the information was requested but due to certain reasons the agencies neither responded to the secretariats request for information nor attended the meeting following invitation by the secretariat. He referred also to the history of the request for the EEC funds and wanted to know the procedure of expenditure of the funds approved by the EEC for STPA. He recognized the SIDA assistance to Tanzania and Zimbabwe as a positive response to the request for assistance to STPA. He wondered whether the amount provided by UNDP to the regional component of STPA included assistance to Portuguese-speaking countries. He emphasized the need for UNDP to assist the STPA regional component beyond 1986.

90. On fellowships from country IPF's the representative of University of Botswana mentioned that top priority should be given to fellowships for higher degrees. He also referred to the high cost of missions by training advisers to countries but the secretariat assured him that this only takes up a small part of the total cost. On EEC assistance, he requested the EEC representative to the meeting to explain how to get the help.

91. The representative of ADB referred to the project financing procedures of his institution to individual African countries. He mentioned that through appropriate marketing procedures of the national statistical offices, it may be possible to formulate projects which can attract bank soft funds especially for financing the required buildings and equipment under education programmes.

92. In reply to questions raised by participants, the UNDP representative confirmed that UNDP provides through the regional component fellowships for the training of trainers who are expected to man the training programmes at STPA centres. On fellowships for trainees he reiterated that the mandate of the regional IPF excluded this from the assistance since it was adequately catered for under the national IPF's. With regard to visiting lecturers, the UNDP representative indicated that the purpose of training teaching staff of the centres is to provide future capability for conducting courses at the centres and as such it was plausible to provide very specific specialised short-term consultancies to supplement what had already been developed for the sub-regional centres.

93. With regard to the provision of physical facilities, the UNDP representative pointed out that the UNDP mandate of providing technical assistance precluded capital assistance and as already indicated by other donors some assistance in this direction is already forthcoming from them. On special assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries, this assistance was provided from the same funds of the regional component and took the form of consultants to formulate syllabuses, conducting of in-service training programmes and missions by the statistical training advisers and ECA Statistics Division staff to these countries.

94. The representative of National Central Bureau of Statistics indicated that Statistics Sweden has since 1983 entered into long-term twinning agreement with the national statistical offices of Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Lesotho. The funding agency has been the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The agreement is aimed at improving the statistical capability of the concerned country, and usually cover such components as the supply of equipment, long- or short-term consultancies, the use of facilities at the Statistics Sweden home-office, and, to a very large extent, training.

95. She pointed out that the training can take many forms such as informal on-the-job training or more formal courses, seminars and workshops. It is tailor-made to fit the specific needs of the national office at the specific time. The training can thus range from courses at degree-level to post-graduate courses, and in addition to more strictly statistical subjects cover covering such fields as management and computing. The activities also involve participants from outside the statistical office, viz. representatives of user bodies, staff from computing centres or other bodies in the country producing statistics.

96. On behalf of the Chief of the Department of Co-operation of INSEE, the representative of CESD made some corrections to the French Government statement in document E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/9c concerning ENSEA Abidjan. The second and third sentences of 1.1.3 should read as follows: "There should not be more than four experts in 1986-87 for the current structure. Two additional experts should be assigned when the ISE Division is established".

97. The representative of ISPC, U.S. Bureau of the Census, noted that ISPC provides a broad range of technical assistance in statistics to countries in the African region. That assistance is provided both on a long-term basis by resident advisors (e.g., in Nigeria) and on the basis of recurrent short-term advisory missions. Short-term technical assistance has been provided by ISPC to many countries in English-speaking and French-speaking Africa.

98. Training often is linked with ISPC technical assistance. For example, a technical assistance project may include a training component under which participants are funded to attend the ISPC training program in Washington. In-country workshops frequently are organized as part of an ISPC technical assistance project. External funding is needed to enable ISPC to provide technical assistance to a country that requests it. Often, this function is provided through a Mission of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations, World Bank or recipient country itself (as is the case for Nigeria).

99. The representative of the Munich Centre summarised some of the activities of the centre. The centre was created to organise further training for statisticians from developing countries. It co-operates with the EEC, the specialised organisations of the UN and various national and international parties in its activities. The centre has no fixed institutional co-operation with training centres or statistical services and organises seminars in developing countries usually on a joint venture with national or regional parties. The training programme of the centre is to a certain extent based on training priorities submitted by statistical offices and training centres in developing countries.

100. The representative of the Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne indicated that his centre has a large and developing group of statisticians with several facilities. The fields covered are related to health, medical statistics, surveys and statistical methods etc. The centre is interested in "twining" with African institutions as well as writing booklets for courses at professional training level.

101. The representative of the Institute of Statisticians indicated that his organisation has maintained a harmonising influence on courses and standards. The Institute has recently been appointed by EEC as agent in English-speaking African countries to facilitate all kinds of training related to STPA. The institute will set up at its next council meeting a project team of senior members who will identify the best ways of meeting requests that come in. The institute's function will be to identify the best short term or long term placements for each request. On the training of trainers the representative of the Institute felt that a broad base of statistical knowledge as represented by an MSc degree may be adequate for them to acquire. The Ph.D may follow later in appropriate cases but not necessarily for everyone. He also mentioned the need to provide teaching missions to centres or countries to help set up new areas.

102. In conclusion, the meeting expressed its deep appreciation on the assistance provided so far by the bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and institutions for the development of the overall STPA programme. It wished that this assistance will continue and be further strengthened. It also requested that donors facilitate and accelerate as much as possible the process of granting fellowships.

103. The meeting also urged African Governments to accord higher priority to statistics and to ensure that an adequate number of fellowships is earmarked for training at STPA centres, either from the national resources or from the funds provided by donor agencies through country programmes.

104. The meeting approved the draft resolution, attached as Annex II, for consideration by the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, and adoption by the ECA Conference of Ministers.

K. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON TRAINING ACTIVITIES (agenda item 10)

105. Introducing documents E/ECA/STPA/DM.4/10 and 11, the secretariat laid emphasis on the Directory of STPA centres and associate centres and the Directory of non-STPA centres compiled by the ECA Statistics Division. The secretariat mentioned the actions which STPA, associate and non-STPA, centres and national statistical services needed to take to assist ECA in its co-ordinating role.

106. One speaker suggested that the secretariat should consider publishing a digest of the research conducted at the African statistical training centres.

107. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Department of Statistics at the University of Ibadan offered to provide the secretariat with information on the other non-STPA centres existing in Nigeria to supplement the Directory of non-STPA centres. This suggestion was welcomed by the secretariat.

108. The meeting unanimously endorsed the presentation and content of the first issues of the Directory of STPA centres and associate centres and the Directory of non-STPA centres, subject to any necessary updating and corrections.

L. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 11)

109. The secretariat informed the meeting that the Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne had made an application to become an associate centre of STPA. The secretariat had found the centre suitable, and asked the meeting to support the proposal to include it as an associate member. The meeting supported the proposal of the secretariat, but requested that in future such issues should be documented and circulated beforehand.

110. In reply to a question on why two STPA French-speaking centres were not represented at the meeting, the secretariat informed the participants that the two centres had planned to attend but at the last minute cables had been received saying that they could not do so. The secretariat appealed to Directors of centres to send their deputies if unable to come themselves.

111. One participant asked the representatives of Associate centres and European countries how they managed to secure proper recognition for statistics in their countries. Various representatives described the solutions adopted by their countries or institutions, which included developing statistics related to the community, running active campaigns, working in various ministries, producing small analytical papers, offering access to statistical data through computer systems initially free of charge, introducing applied statistics in schools, etc., to make those using statistics realise their usefulness and importance, fostering contact between producers and users and reminding the ministries concerned on the vital role of statistics for the preparation of development policies.

112. An evaluation of the meeting was conducted at the end through a questionnaire supplied by the secretariat for the participants to complete. The results of the evaluation are attached as Annex III to this report.

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME (draft)

The fourth meeting of Directors of centres participating in the Statistical training Programme for Africa (STPA), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 8 November 1985, discussed the future course of the programme in the light of the conclusions of a paper entitled "Evaluation of STPA and future work programme". It agreed that particular emphasis should be put on future activities concerned with specialised post-graduate training and that greater attention should be given to middle-level training, particularly in French-speaking and Portuguese-speaking African countries. It also recommended that the programme should set a target date of 1991 for making Africa self-sufficient in the qualified statistical staff needed by the region for collecting, processing and analysing data for use in economic and social planning.

The meeting adopted the following work programme to serve as a framework for future action for the development of the overall STPA programme:

(a) Operational support for all STPA centres so that they can contribute effectively to the attainment of the objectives set by the programme, including:

(i) Assistance with the training of trainers: this should make allowance for the different circumstances that can prevail depending on the system to which the centre belongs, its legal status, the status of its teaching staff and the level of training offered;

(ii) Provision of consultants for short periods to give courses in some specialised areas;

(iii) Provision, as necessary, of full-time lecturers pending the return of teaching staff sent for training;

(iv) Provision of equipment, in particular micro-computers, calculators, reproduction equipment etc.;

(v) Support, as necessary, for the expansion or construction of premises;

(vi) Support for the holding of seminars and working groups in priority areas of applied statistics such as statistical computer science, national accounts, agricultural statistics, and the use and analysis of data.

(b) Assistance to two French-speaking STPA centres in opening training sections for statistician-economists;

(c) Programmed assistance, based on a project document, to two English-speaking STPA centres in the establishment of specialized post-graduate training:

(d) Assistance to African countries wishing to establish or develop national training courses for middle-level statistical staff, including in-service training;

(e) Assistance to Portuguese-speaking African countries so as to enable them to benefit more from the activities undertaken within the framework of STPA;

(f) Support for African national centres for professional training; this support should be provided by aid organizations within country IPFs; it will nevertheless be necessary for the centres to embark on the co-operative development of teaching curricula in order to give a more practical orientation to the courses they offer;

(g) Co-operative development of teaching programmes, including the preparation of teaching materials, and the periodic review of the guide syllabuses for professional, middle-level and in-service training programmes drawn up under STPA;

(h) Dissemination of information on statistical training activities in and outside Africa;

(i) Periodic assessment of STPA activities; an annual survey should be organized of the performance of the STPA centres and periodic surveys should be held on the organization and staffing of statistical services in Africa;

(j) Measures to procure a sufficient number of fellowships for study at STPA centres and associate centres. African Governments should earmark a sufficient number of fellowships for statistical training using either national resources or external aid funds. Donors should as far as possible facilitate and accelerate the procedures for the granting of fellowships;

(k) Co-ordination of all activities under STPA, including the project "EEC Assistance to STPA" and the regional element of the programme funded by UNDP.

The meeting calls on all parties concerned , African Governments, STPA centres and associate centres, national statistical training facilities, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and ECA and other national and international institutions to continue to take an active part in the implementation of this work programme in order to help STPA to accomplish its objectives in full.

DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE FOURTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF STPA CENTRES STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA PROVISION OF TRAINEE FELLOWSHIPS

The Conference of Ministers

Recalling that the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) was established in 1978 to remedy the acute shortage of statistical personnel required for the collection, processing and analysis of essential data for national planning and development;

Noting that the programme has so far made good progress but the problem of inadequate training fellowships for study at STPA centres constitutes one of the major obstacles to its development;

Recalling that the Lagos Plan of Action urges African countries, as a matter of urgency, to strengthen their statistical infrastructures as a basis for effective policy-making and planning;

Considering that the 21st. Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity reaffirmed that the attainment of the objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos depends on the development of the wide range of human resources required for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programmes covering the entire spectrum and sectoral activities in the economic development process;

Noting with satisfaction that STPA is a good example of multi-donor assistance, involving particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the European Economic Community, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation and various bilateral agencies and institutions.

1. Urges African Governments to accord higher priority to statistical training and to ensure that an adequate number of fellowships are earmarked for training at STPA centres, either from national resources or from the funds provided by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies through country programmes,

2. Expresses its deep appreciation for the assistance so far provided to the programme by many bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, hopes that their support will continue and be further strengthened, and requests them to facilitate and accelerate the procedure of granting fellowships as much as possible.

EVALUATION OF THE MEETING

Overall the completed 17 evaluation forms indicate that participants were generally satisfied with the administrative organization, the content of the agenda and the practical orientation of the discussions of the meeting. However, three of the participants, among whom two observers, would like the following topics to be included in the agenda for future meetings of the same nature:

- link between the training centres and the national statistical organizations;
- postgraduate research and postgraduate training;
- statistical development as an investment item like other social and physical infrastructures;
- the increase of financial support by governments for data collection;
- problems related to the organisation of practical attachment of students.

Concerning the documentation supplied to the meeting, participants generally indicated that it was sufficient and reasonable. However, some of them pointed out that background documents were not sent to them on time.

As regard the participation and outcome of the meeting, participants remarked that the time allowed for questions and discussions was sufficient. They indicated that as a result of this meeting, their contribution to the implementation of the overall STPA programme will likely be more than before. However, four of them indicated that the following topics were not sufficiently discussed:

- UNDP technical and financial assistance for phase III of the STPA (1987-1991);
- the rôle OAU could play to promote statistical activities in the context of the recent OAU Summit declaration on Africa's Economic crisis;
- the improvement of co-operation between statistical training centres and national statistical offices;
- has the STPA to deal with middle level training?

In general, participants thought that the meeting fully achieved its objectives and that it is very relevant to the activities to be conducted within the statistical training centres.

Some participants, mainly the delegates from STPA centres and user countries indicatedthe followings among the greatest problems expected in putting into practice the recommendations of the meeting:

- the non-availability of financial resources;
- the heavy beaucreatic procedures;

- the attitude of national governments to the implementation of decisions reached in the meeting;
- the implementation of the guide-syllabus for professional level within the University framework;
- the lack of qualified personnel in the national statistical offices for conducting in-service training programme.

Finally, some participants made the following suggestions for the improvement of the organization and conduct of future meetings of the same nature:

- sort out accommodation problems before the arrival of participants;
- if possible, distribute well in advance background documents to the participants;
- precisely indicate the duration for the discussion of each agenda item and ask the participants to keep their remarks to the appropriate agenda item.

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
LIMITED

E/ECA/PSD.4/21
24 December 1985

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fourth session of the Joint Conference
of African Planners, Statisticians
and Demographers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-12 March 1986

LC/NAIROBI.

REPORT ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES (1984-1985) AND EXAMINATION OF WORK PROGRAMME (1986-1989) WITH CONSIDERATION OF THE OBJECTIVES, PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED AND STRATEGY FOR THE PERIOD 1990 - 1995

Introduction

1. The paper assesses the progress which has been made in implementing the approved work programme for the period 1984-1985 (Annex I), lists the outputs under the different sub-programmes which could not be delivered due to resource limitations and other reasons and discusses some of the indicators which can be used to evaluate the performance of the work of the ECA Statistics Division during the period under review.

2. In addition, the approved work programme for 1986-1987 (Annex II) is presented together with the proposed work programme narrative for 1988-1989 (Annex III).

3. Since this is the last opportunity the Joint Conference will have before preparations for the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1990-1995 begin, it is intended to discuss the objectives of the various sub-programmes, the problems addressed and the strategy to be followed during the period to solve those problems.

Review of statistical activities (1984-1985)

4. The following review follows the lines of the work programme for 1984-1985:

SUBPROGRAMME 1: STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

5. This subprogramme is in three parts: General aspects of co-ordination and development, Statistical data base development and the Statistical Training Programme for Africa.

6. Under the first part, all outputs were delivered except the substantive servicing of the working group on environment and natural resources statistics which was cancelled for lack of resources. Also, the 1984 Directory of African Statisticians was printed in November 1983 and thus assumed to have been delivered in 1983 and not 1985. Two outputs were combined since they are inter-related: A review of the statistical organization problems in the region and Assessment of the effectiveness of national statistical services.

7. With respect to statistical data base development, all outputs were delivered during the biennium, though not necessarily during the periods originally scheduled. For example, the one advisory mission scheduled for 1984 was carried out in 1985 at the request of the member State.

8. Similarly, all outputs under STPA were delivered. It should be noted however that for projects such as STPA with large extra-budgetary support, only the regular budget outputs are shown in the work programme.

9. A study of the statistical training needs for the Portuguese-speaking African countries was undertaken from February to April 1984. Following this study, a guide-syllabus for in-service training in statistics was prepared for the special use of the countries of the group. One consultant was recruited and sent to Sao Tome and Principe and Guinea Bissau for the period May to November 1985 to assist these countries in the implementation of their in-service training programmes. Also, one ECA Statistical Training Adviser went to Mozambique to assist the Government in drawing up a project document for the financing of an in-service programme at the National Statistical Office.

10. The two statistical training advisers undertook missions to Liberia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Tanzania and Malawi, with the purpose of assisting these countries in the implementation and/or strengthening of their in-service or middle-level training programmes at national level. Additional missions to Algeria and Ghana were undertaken by two regular budget staff members.

11. Field and office equipment were supplied in 1984 to the "Collège statistique de Dakar". Arrangements are being made to supply the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economies (ISAE), Kampala with data processing equipment.

12. Four fellowships were awarded for the training of trainers: one for three months, a second for one year and two others for two years. A total of six visiting lecturers were provided to the "Institut africain et mauricien de statistique et d'économie appliquée" IAMSEA), Kigali.

13. In the framework of EEC assistance to STPA, a meeting was held in Brussels in December 1984 to discuss the practical ways of implementing the proposed EEC assistance. The ECA Statistics Division was represented by the Chief, Censuses and Surveys Advisory Service

14. A Tripartite Review of the STPA project was held in Addis Ababa in October 1985. The Fourth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres was also held in Addis Ababa from 4 to 8 November 1985, with the participation of twelve STPA centres and two associate centres. Two directories were prepared and presented to this meeting namely the Directory of STPA and Associate centres and the Directory of non-STPA centres.

15. Following a recommendation of the Third Meeting of Directors of STPA centres, two teams were set up to prepare guide syllabuses for professional level statistical training. One team prepared the English-speaking guide syllabus and the other team the French-speaking guide syllabus. These guide-syllabuses have been adopted recently by the Fourth Meeting of Directors of STPA centres and are presented as documents for your approval at this meeting.

16. As part of the regular activity of the project four publications of the STPA News and four progress reports were prepared during the period under review.

SUBPROGRAMME 2: ECONOMIC STATISTICS

17. The review attempts to highlight some of the important activities undertaken in the area of general economic statistics since the last session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers in March 1984. These are summarized under the following subprogrammes:

(i) national accounts, finance and prices;

(ii) National Accounts Capability Programme;

(iii) external trade;

(iv) industry;

(v) agriculture and

(vi) transport, communications and tourism.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS, FINANCE AND PRICES AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTS CAPABILITY PROGRAMME

18. A good part of the resources of the General Economic Statistics Section (GESS) was deployed in work on national accounts. Activities were two pronged: regional advisory services to member States on request in developing a coherent set of basic economic statistics and national accounts, application of the data and on-the-job training of local national accounts staff, and the secretariat's own work on country, sub-regional and regional estimation and compilation of gross domestic product by industrial origin, expenditure on gross domestic product, sectoral deflators, etc.

19. However, there were setbacks and not all the activities planned under this sub-programme were implemented. The most important was the transfer of the ECA regional adviser on national accounts to the post of regional adviser on national accounts in the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at the end of June 1984. At about the same time as efforts were being made to identify and recruit his replacement, a temporary six-month suspension of recruitment for established or temporary secretariat posts effective September 1984, was imposed.

20. During the embargo all efforts were made by ECA to respond to requests from member States for regional advisory services in national accounts by mobilizing the available manpower resources in the Division.

21. A new regional adviser in national accounts, Mr. Tim Jones, joined the secretariat in July 1985. He worked with the U.K. Central Statistical Office before joining ECA. He has also worked in Seychelles and Botswana. Regional advisory services to member States in this area have since been carried out.

22. It may be recalled that during the Statistics Committee meeting of the third session of the Joint Conference a report was given on ECA's efforts to secure the services of a second expert in national accounts, to enable the secretariat to respond promptly to requests for advisory services in this area.

23. These efforts have not yet yielded results. The French Government which had agreed in principle to provide a French-speaking expert to the National Accounts Capability Programme (NACP), was unable to identify and recruit a suitable expert on a long term basis for ECA. However, the Government provided the services of an expert on a two-month contract. This provision was used to field a mission to Mauritania to help with work on basic economic statistics and national accounts.

24. The secretariat wishes to express its deep appreciation to the Government of France for this assistance, and looks forward to further co-operation in this area. ECA has continued to use its own staff resources to undertake national accounts advisory services. During the period under review, missions were undertaken to the following countries: Guinea, Mali, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Principe, Sierra leone, Somalia, Swaziland and Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar) with follow-ups in some cases. Some of these missions were sponsored by the World Bank as part of the increasing collaboration between that agency and the ECA in joint economic missions to African countries.

25. It should be noted that there was some turnover in staff resources during 1984. One national accounts statistician was reassigned and left the General Economic Statistics Section; another resigned from the secretariat. At the time of writing this review, efforts were being made to recruit replacements for these persons.

26. This situation has had adverse effects on the secretariat's work on national accounts. The need for this work has never been more pressing. This is evident in the fact that a general time lag of about 2-5 years exists for most countries of the region in the availability of official national accounts. For some others, the data are sporadic and comparable historical series difficult to obtain, and it is not uncommon for changes to be introduced on successive occasions in concepts, definitions and data coverage which impair comparability. In addition, frequent shifts are made in base year, with no apparent links with series based on a previous base year, etc. ECA tries to correct these anomalies and provide reliable and up-to-date data for monitoring and assessing economic performance and progress of member States, providing factual information as a basis for project formulation and economic integration.

27. In accordance with the work programme adopted at the ninth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, two training workshops in national accounts, one for French-speaking participants, the other for English-speaking participants were run simultaneously at ECA headquarters from 30 September to 11 October 1985. These workshops paid particular attention to the practical problems being encountered by countries in the region in the implementation of the UN system of national accounts and identified areas of the system for possible revision by the United Nations Inter-secretariat Working Group on the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA). More about this working group will be said later in this review.

28. It is perhaps relevant to mention here that the original plan was for a bilingual training workshop in national accounts. However, because of financial constraints it was not possible to secure funds for language interpretation, and two separate workshops were held simultaneously. The two language groups had sufficient opportunities to interact.

29. Within the context of financial resources for technical meetings, seminars, workshops etc., the secretariat would like to state that in cases where it cannot provide sponsorship, this fact is clearly stated in the letter of invitation. This letter also indicates possible bilateral sources of assistance. It must be stressed that it is not, as has been suggested by some countries, that ECA does not make adequate provision for funding participants from member States at these technical meetings (which some countries say have been very valuable)but that ECA's own resources have not been able to provide, in recent times, as much of this type of support as they did before.

30. This situation has had very serious effects on some technical meetings given the low priority accorded to statistical work by some countries. The fact that the secretariat has not been able to pay for participants to attend some of these meetings has usually discouraged some countries from participating. It is clear however that resources for this type of sponsorship may no longer be forthcoming regularly from the secretariat's own resources and therefore countries have to adopt their own strategies for securing the necessary funds for their participation. In this connection, it is worth noting that 18 participants from French-speaking countries were able to participate in the workshop on national accounts, using funds not provided by ECA. Admittedly, the situation is unfortunate, especially at a time when most member States are experiencing economic and financial crises. The options for the moment are to intensify the secretariat's effort to raise funds for such meetings, request countries to seek bilateral assistance or finance their own participation.

31. During the last meeting of this Committee, the secretariat reported on the formation of an Inter-Secretariat working group consisting of representatives of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, the European Economic Community, the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to review the present United Nations System of National Accounts. The review work is being done in three phases as follows: Phase I - where the regional commissions and interested agencies are collecting basic materials and encouraging the expression of views and ideas from regions; Phase II - starting in 1986 will involve eight expert working groups; Phase III - will address the issue of the integrated system, with due regard to its simplification and harmonization with the sub-systems.

32. The clarification of the SNA and its harmonization with related statistical systems, rather than its modification or further extension would be the central issue. High priority will be given to issues relevant to developing countries. Modifications to the system is expected to be minor in order to safeguard the continuity of the efforts to implement it and preserve the time series. It is therefore essential for the working group to have the positive reaction of national account practioners in the African region to these activities.

33. In this regard, the ECA secretariat addressed a letter dated 29 May 1984, to all government statistical offices in the region, soliciting views on any simplification, elaboration or clarification that may be considered necessary or advisable with regard to conceptual or practical aspects of the present SNA. Suggestions were given on some of the aspects of the SNA which it was felt countries might want to consider. It is therefore essential for countries to document the special problems which they have encountered in implementing the SNA, and proposals, if any, for possible solutions. This will enable the Inter-Secretariat Working Group to consider the problems encountered in the African region along with those met with in other developing regions, and provide clarification, modification and or simplification in the next revised version of the system.

34. During the two national accounts workshops already mentioned above, particular attention was paid to the review. It is hoped that a review seminar planned for the fourth quarter of this year will come out with a regional position. The ECA secretariat will not be assuming any financial responsibility in respect of the participation of countries at this seminar, and countries are kindly requested to take note of this, so that they can start preparatory arrangements for their participation. Informal letters of invitation will be sent to all countries soon after the present session of the Joint Conference, giving the necessary details about the seminar.

35. A separate paper on the Progress in Implementing the National Accounts Capability Programme (E/ECA/PSD.4/52) is being presented as background document to the Joint Conference.

36. The importance of the secretariat's work in the area of price statistics cannot be over-emphasized. Price is the most basic economic and statistical variable, for example, in the evaluation of economic conditions, the measurement of production trends, the assessment of inflation, etc. In spite of the abundance of price statistics, the measurement of prices is a difficult undertaking.

37. The secretariat's work on the development of a co-ordinated system of price statistics in the African region at the producer, wholesale, consumer and export/import levels has drawn its inputs largely from official country sources. However, these primary data sources are becoming less and less available to the secretariat for quite a good number of countries, end even when available, data are for a few years only. This situation is causing much concern, not only in relation to work on prices but also in other areas of economic statistics. Admittedly, the subject of price statistics in the work programme of the Commission has been given rather intermittent attention in the last two years due mainly to lack of staff resources. With the recruitment of a statistician for work in this area, the subject is now receiving due attention not only because of the increasing concern for the improvement of price statistics in an integrated and co-ordinated manner, both at the national and international levels, but also because prices are the building blocks of the International Comparison Project. A study has been completed on "Transport prices in African consumer price indices: some

guidelines". An executive summary is presented to the Conference in document E/ECA/PSD.4/50. The full paper is published in Statistical Information Bulletin No.18.

38. African countries collect, compile and publish price and quantity statistics for commodities as well as a number of different aggregates and index numbers. However, because of the differences in the ways in which the various series on prices and quantities originated and developed, they are often incompatible with one another and cannot easily be used for analytical purposes.

39. The secretariat has carried out a number of activities designed to assist countries improve and develop these statistics. The Working Group on Price Statistics, held in June 1979, examined the development of price statistics in African countries, identified data and other requirements and drew up a comprehensive plan for the development of an integrated system of price statistics. The outcome of that meeting was an African Programme of Price Statistics, which provides guidelines and priorities for a self-reliant effort to develop price statistics in the region. The programme, subsequently revised, was approved by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its eighth meeting. In pursuance of the recommendations of the 1979 Working Group that the work programme as formulated be revised periodically to take account of the progress achieved, and to suggest changes in the methodologies and requirements in this field, a follow-up meeting was held in Addis Ababa, from 27 February to 2 March 1984. This meeting was combined with that of the International Comparison Project (ICP) for financial reasons.

40. Progress in implementing the programme has so far been slow. Reasons for this include the lack of adequate financial resources, experienced manpower resources, and management problems. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to note that 24 countries in the region are participating in the ICP and about 20 in the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP). These programmes could help substantially in the development of comprehensive and integrated price statistics systems.

41. Work on prices in the secretariat has concentrated on the development of a data base with a view to providing the basis for applications such as the evaluation of economic conditions, the measurement of production trends, the assessment of inflation, the construction of national accounts deflators, etc.. At the moment, the data base contains index numbers for most countries of the region on: (a) final expenditure, i.e., consumer price index numbers; (b) wholesale prices and (c) export/import prices. While the index numbers for consumer prices are relatively up-to-date for most countries, those for wholesale prices and external trade are for a number of countries out-of-date.

42. The ICP has now entered Phase V (reference Year 1985) with the following 15 African countries namely: Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe which participated in Phase IV, participating. Nine other countries namely: Benin, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Zaire have joined the Phase V activities.

43. The ICP, incorporating the comparative study of the economies of African countries, begun in 1979, is the result of growing co-operation between the national statistical services of these countries and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC). This framework, as managed by SOEC, is part of the ICP being carried out by the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO) on a world level. ICP-Africa was set up by the national statistical services of the African countries with support to varying degrees, of the UNSO, the United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration (ODA), the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries, the Centre Européen de Formation des Statisticiens Economistes de Pays en voie de développement (CESD), the World Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa.

44. The second ICP African meeting was held at Africa Hall, Addis Ababa from 27 February to 2 March 1984. It may be recalled that a statement from that meeting was presented to the last session of this Committee by the Director-General, a.i. of SOEC. To recapitulate, that meeting examined the results of the comparisons of price levels and economic aggregates for the 15 African countries which had participated in ICP-Phase IV and discussed the organization of ICP-Africa Phase V. The meeting reached consensus on the need to integrate ICP requirements, as far as possible, with other activities of national statistical offices in view of the potentialities of the ICP for the improvement of national statistics especially in the area of price indexes, consumption surveys and national accounts.

45. From 24-28 September 1984, an integorganizational meeting on the ICP was held in Bellagio, Italy. The two African 'core countries' Kenya and Senegal as well as ECA were represented. The agenda included discussions on the uses of the ICP for national price work. Another meeting held in Vienna, Austria, from 2-21 September 1985, dealt with preparatory work of ICP-Phase V. Kenya, Senegal, Phase V Africa 'core countries' and the ECA were represented. Nigeria is also a Phse V 'core country'.

46. Participating African countries have, no doubt, derived considerable benefits from the ICP. Some countries have used the project as a basis for improving their price statistics especially those required for making and monitoring national economic policies. For example, in the area of national prices and incomes policies the ICP requirements have enabled some broad measure of national prices and regional variation in terms of the population concerned. Improvement in consumer and wholesale price indexes have also been achieved. These activities are noteworthy in view of the fact that the African programme for developing price statistics on a self-reliant basis has by itself so far made very slow progress. It is encouraging that 24 African countries are taking part in ICI Phase V as against 15 countries in ICP Phase IV.

47. It is important that countries use the assistance provided under ICP to develop permanent systems in the area of national price statistics and national accounts. From the discussions at the ICP-Africa meeting, Luxemburg, April 1985, it emerged that one of the most serious problems facing Phase V is the shortage of financial resources. Although the European Economic Community is assisting the African comparisons, the meeting was informed that there are still substantial gaps in respect of the financing of Phase V, especially as regards the travel cost of respresentation of developing core countries at bilateral and multilateral meetings. The United Nations Statistical Office has started a new round of fund raising activities, the outcome of which is not yet clear.

48. Due to the delay in recruiting the Associate Statistician (Prices) the following output has been postponed: Methodological study on rural price data collection and the output on improvement of raw material export indexes terminated.

49. A fuller report is given in the document "Progress of the Implementation of the International Comparison Project in the African region" (E/ECA/PSD.4/59).

External trade statistics

50. One mission was undertaken in 1984 to assess the current status of external trade in the country and make recommendations on steps to be taken to improve the quality and timely delivery of the data.

51. Computer print outs on total trade and exchange rates were issued twice and sent to the substantive divisions of ECA in 1984. Computer print outs including total trade, import and export and terms of trade indices, exchange rates were also sent to member States in 1985.

52. A report of the current status of trade statistics including reasons for delayed dissemination of data is before the Joint Conferences as document E/ECA/PSD.4/49.

53. Foreign trade statistics for Africa, Series A No.27 and Series C No.4 were finalized and sent for printing in September 1985. Series A number 28 and Series C No. 5 have been delayed and are now expected to be sent for printing early in the first quarter of 1986.

Industrial statistics

54. The data base in industrial statistics became operational during the last two years following the finalization of preparatory work, e.g. development of standard parameters and lists of series, and the entry of time series. However, the statistical information now available consists largely of material published in the African Statistical Yearbook, the computerization of which as already stated, was given high priority. Loading of additional information into the system is on hand in order to build up specific files on, for example, index numbers of industrial production, commodity production, energy and construction statistics.

55. In other respects, the Statistics Division handled a considerable number of requests for data on industry emanating from other ECA divisions as well as from external users. The main problem here is the numerous gaps which exist in the general industrial statistics series available at ECA.

56. Important indicators such as industrial output by product, capital formation by type of capital goods, man-days worked by operatives, raw materials consumed by type and origin, changes in stocks by major components and index number of industrial production are either unavailable or incomplete for a number of countries in the region. Moreover, the time-lag between an inquiry period and the publication of the results vary generally from two to four years. The situation calls for the establishment at the national level of integrated systems of industrial statistics. To that end, detailed guidelines which take into consideration local conditions and special circumstances of statistical development of countries are provided by ECA during missions, but the number of advisory missions undertaken during the last two years has been small due to resource limitations.

57. Finally, in compliance with a request made by the last session of the Joint Conference, three studies have been prepared dealing with the 'Relationship between production and trade in African manufactured products', the 'Local processing of raw materials for exports' and 'The production, domestic use and trade in industrial raw materials'. The first of these which is to be considered by the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, attempts not only to throw light from a statistical point of view on the links between production and trade in African manufactured products, but also to identify and analyse the shortcomings affecting the data available in order to recommend appropriate measures to remedy the situation. The two other studies are statistical reviews of the main changes which have occurred in recent years with regard to production, local processing and trade in industrial raw materials and are being presented as background documents to agenda item. 20.

Other economic statistics

58. The development and maintenance of a reliable and up-to.date statistical data base in food and agriculture continues to have top priority. The role of food and agriculture in the on-going economic and social crisis in the region underscores this need, and intensified efforts are being made in this area. Printouts on agricultural statistics relating to all member States are produced twice yearly. An analysis of food production and imports has been done and is being presented to this meeting as document E/ECA/PSD.4/54.

59. The secretariat's existing data base contains the following series for almost all countries in the region for the year 1970 through 1984: Index numbers of total agricultural and food production, numbers of livestock and livestock products (heads), production of principal agricultural crops and fish catches. The aim is to make readily available sufficient and reliable basic data for effective analysis and evaluation of the situation of food and agriculture in the African region. The principal source of the data has been the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations, since most of the countries do not have adequate statistical services to provide satisfactory data on the state of food and agriculture. During the past year or so the aim with regard to statistical data base development has been the computerization of the African statistical yearbook. This objective having been achieved, the emphasis has now shifted to the development of an up-to-date data series in individual subjects. In this regard, the secretariat is intensifying and expanding co-operation with FAO. In addition, the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division is trying to connect FAO's Interlinked Computerized Storage and Processing Systems of Food and Agricultural Commodity Data (ICS) and Agro-Stat. Computerized Data System with the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS).

60. Work in this area has been concentrated on the development of an up-to-date data base on the different modes of transport, communication and international tourist travel. Much improvement has been achieved during the last two years, but data gaps still exist for a number of countries. Although the data are largely the by-products of administrative records which are readily available, indications are that for some countries they are not being collected, processed and published regularly and systematically.

61. With a view to assisting member States with the collection, processing and utilization of transport statistics as a planning and management tool in the development of the transport sector in Africa a regional seminar on Transport Statistics was organized and conducted by the secretariat in collaboration with Ecole nationale des ponts et chaussie (ENPC), Paris, France in Addis Ababa from 11-23 June 1984. Twenty-two participants from 20 member States participated in the seminar.

SUBPROGRAMME 3: CENSUSES AND SURVEYS

62. With respect to the subprogramme element, Demographic and Social Statistics, one staff member of the Division participated in the evaluation of civil registration projects in Kenya and Sierra Leone in 1984. This work was done by a team of consultants sponsored by UNFPA.

63. An intergovernmental working group on Development of Civil Registration Systems and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa was convened at ECA headquarters, from 21 to 26 October 1985. It was attended by 28 participants from 20 countries.

64. The Censuses and Surveys Advisory Service looks after three projects, namely the Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS), the UDEAC/CREP project in Demographic Statistics and the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP).

65. During the biennium 1984-1985, the RASDS consisted of a team of six regional advisers with a supporting staff of a research assistant and three secretaries.

66. The team continued to give technical support to population census/demographic survey programmes as well as civil registration and vital statistics systems in ECA member countries.

67. The technical assistance provided was mainly in the form of short-term country missions undertaken at the request of governments or UNFPA country representatives. Other missions were initiated by the regional advisory team with the concurrence of the governments concerned to monitor progress in on-going demographic data collection activities in various countries. During the reporting period 108 missions were undertaken to 35 ECA member States.

68. In addition to the advisory/technical assistance missions members of the RASDS team acted as lecturers/resource persons at a training workshop on Census Taking and Use of Statistical Software Packages for French-speaking African countries and a Working Group meeting on the Development of Civil Registration Systems and Vital Statistics Collection organized in Yaoundé Cameroun, from 1 to 26 October 1984 and in Addis Ababa from 21 to 26 October 1985 respectively.

69. Members of the team also prepared technical papers on population and housing censuses, migration statistics and civil registration during the period under review.

70. The UDEAC/CREP project consists of two experts (the second expert was recruited in July 1985) and a secretary. It provides operational support to member States of the Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale (UDEAC) in their population censuses, demographic surveys and civil registration systems in collaboration with the RASDS.

71. During the period under review the experts under the project undertook 11 missions to provide assistance in the fields of population censuses, demographic surveys, civil registration, education and health statistics, excluding the missions carried out by the Associate Expert who was in post until November 1984.

72. In addition the experts prepared a number of technical papers and the Chief Technical Adviser was an instructor in the Workshops on Census Taking and Use of Statistical Software Packages organized in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in October 1984.

73. The African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) project consisted of two Household Survey Specialists, one for the English- and the other for the French-speaking African countries and a secretary. Of the 18 countries so far participating in the AHSCP the following 11 have active programmes: Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

74. A joint UN Statistical Office/FAO/ECA mission visited Ghana in Nobember 1985 to assist the Ghana Government to prepare a project proposal in the framework of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP). The subjects included in the survey programmes cover a wide range of topics and reflect national needs and priorities as determined jointly by national users and producers of statistical data. In the seven countries whose survey programmes are not yet operational, the main problem has been the mobilization of external resources to pay part of the cost of their survey programme.

75. The regional component of AHSCP, as far as the resources available permits, attempted to implement most of the programme elements. During the period under review 22 technical and backstopping missions were undertaken. It also provided, wherever possible, technical assistance to countries through correspondence especially in connection with content of questionnaires and sample design. A start has been made on the development of household data analysis for which a special paper is now available.

76. Finally, a Workshop on Household Surveys was held in Lusaka, Zambia, in October 1984 with financial support from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC).

77. The major problems encountered during the same period were:

(a) The uncertainty about UNDP's continuation of financial support to the AHSCP regional advisory team made difficult forward planning. It has now been confirmed that the project is being continued at least until 31 December 1986.

(b) The delay in the recruitment of an expert in data processing promised by the Government of the Eederal Republic of Germany has hampered the assistance that the project could give to countries in the processing of their data which is the major bottleneck in all countries; and

(c) The long process in mobilizing external assistance has delayed the start of projects in many countries.

78. In spite of the financial and technical constraints mentioned above and the severe economic situation in most countries of the region, the project continues to make good progress.

Staffing situation in 1984-1985

79. As shown in Annex IV, there were a number of vacancies during the biennium. This was due partly to the six months freeze on recruitment imposed by the UN Secretary-General and partly to structural delays in the recruitment process. The implementation rate of work programme outputs should be assessed with due account being taken of the work months vacant during the biennium.

80. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECA at the last conference retired from UN Service on 31 May 1985. Mr. Booker had contributed to statistical development in Africa during the approximately 30 years he spent in the region, over 20 years of which he spent in ECA. Mr. K.T. de Graft-Johnson who had been his deputy since January 1978 assumed duty as Chief with effect from 1 June 1985.

Evaluation of 1984-1985 Work Programme

81. The United Nations has established a machinery for the evaluation of the work programme. However, the Joint Conference itself is expected to evaluate the work of the Statistics Division. There are many ways in which this can be done, a few are listed for illustrative purposes:

(a) To what extent have member States used the services provided by the Division?

(b) Have the studies published by the Divison had any impact on statistical work at the national level and ultimately on social and economic development of member States?

(c) Have the publications of the Division been useful to member States?

(d) What has been the impact of programmes such as the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) and the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP)? For example, has the existence of STPA resulted in more countries having a cadre of trained statisticians and in the development of national statistical plans which have been incorporated in national development plans as recommended by the Lagos Plan of Action?

(e) Have the workshop/seminars/meetings organized by the Division been useful? In this connection, it should be noted that with effect from January 1985, all meetings organized by the Division have been evaluated by the participants and the evaluation report for each meeting is included in the relevant reports. There is need for the Joint Conference itself to express its views on the usefulness of the meetings.

(f) Are there additional performance indicators which the Division should take into account? Outputs delivered out of outputs planned (unweighted)? Outputs delivered out of outputs planned (weighted by number of work months as provided in the work programme budget)?

82. The above evaluation which is in addition to that to be undertaken by the UN Headquarters is intended to determine how far the programme has been able to meet its objectives and the benefits member States have derived from it. An evaluation can be done at a meeting of this nature by open discussion or by inquiry using questionnaires to be completed by delegates, with the anonymity of respondents being assured.

83. The statistics committee is invited to indicate the procedures it wishes to adopt to review and evaluate the implementation of the Division's work programme.

Work Programme for 1986-1987

84. Annex II to this report contains the approved work programme for 1986-1987. The work programme is based on the draft work programme submitted to the third session of the Joint Conference. It incorporates also the amendments made at that meeting. However, due to resource constraints, the number of advisory missions has been reduced considerably.

85. A new programme element under the subprogramme Censuses and Surveys which deals with environment statistics has been included. This is in response to a request for the establishment of a data base on environment statistics, with particular reference to drought and desertification. Research and methodological studies will also be undertaken by the new environment statistician. These studies are expected to result, in 1987, in a technical publication which will indicate the types of data required for the description and monitoring or control of desertification and drought in Africa.

Draft Work Programme for 1988-1989

86. Annex III contains the penultimate formal draft of the work programme narrative for 1988-1989. As the preparation of the final draft begins later in 1986, this is the last opportunity the Joint Conference will have to comment on the relevance of the programme to the current needs of the region and to make amendments. It should be noted that in proposing amendments, the Committee should note that the cost implications of such amendments should be taken into account. It is not likely that the number of work-months provided in 1986-1987 will be increased in 1988-1989. The travel funds available will only be adjusted to take account of inflation.

Medium-term Plan for the Period 1990-1995

87. Although no specific instructions have been issued for the preparation of the next medium-term plan, the fourth session of the Joint Conference is likely to be the last opportunity for the Conference to have inputs into the preparation of that plan. It is intended in the following sections to deal with the objectives, problems addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995 in respect of each of the subprogrammes.

(a) SUBPROGRAMME 1: STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

88. The objectives of this subprogramme are:

(i) to assist countries to prepare statistical development plans, including work programme budgets, as part of the overall national development plan;

(ii) to further develop and improve statistical infrastructures in member States;

(iii) to assist further in the provision of national cadres of trained statisticians for the countries of the region;

(iv) to further develop national data processing capabilities and national and regional statistical data bases as part of the overall strategy to establish statistical information systems.

(v) to promote data applications and analysis in the countries of the region as a basis for development plan and policy formulation and programme implementation, appraisal and monitoring.

Problems addressed

89. A number of problems are addressed. These are due to the fact that the region is a developing one and has 26 countries classified among the least developed countries. The problems addressed are:

(i) The state of statistical development in the region is still unsatisfactory despite some improvements. This situation partly stems from the absence of a well co-ordinated plan for statistical development and absence of any yardsticks by which national governments can measure the performance of their national statistical offices in relation to the budgets allocated to them;

(ii) There are no sufficient guidelines on data analysis and applications. This leads to inadequate utilization of data by planners and other users and thus results in low demand for statistical data which in turn results in low priority being given to statistical priorities;

(iii) Data processing has for the past 25 years proved to be the most important factor hampering the timely dissemination of statistical data. In spite of the advent of sophisticated hardware, the time lag between collection and publication is still very long. The reasons are: lack of qualified computer staff, inadequate facilities for data storage and retrieval and lack of co-ordination between subject-matter specialists and computer personnel.

Strategy for the period 1990-1995

90. The strategy to be adopted for the next medium-term plan are as follows:

(i) Assistance to national statistical services in the formulation of statistical development plans, including detailed data processing requirements, as part of the overall national development plans;

(ii) Guidance to national statistical services in the acquisition of adequate computer facilities, including micro-computers and their supporting software;

(iii) Further assistance in providing materials for teaching statistical computing for use in training statisticians at statistical training centre;

(iv) Development of guidelines for vertical and horizontal collaboration with respect to data processing among the different organizational units of the national statistical service;

(v) To assist those countries with Central Data Processing Centres to establish user committees whose fundtions will include, inter alia, the allocation of computer time among the various users;

(vi) Development of additional guidelines on data applications and analysis of particular relevance to the region.

(b) SUBPROGRAMME 2: ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Objectives

91. The objectives of subprogramme 2 are:

(i) To improve the relevance, timeliness, reliability and cost-effectiveness of national and international economic statistics necessary for development planning, fiscal policy and monetary management;

(ii) To make available internationally comparable data on international trade, national accounts and other economic statistics including agriculture, industry, transport, energy, natural resources, prices and public finance;

(iii) To provide short-term advisory missions and training services aimed at enhancing national capabilities in the collection, presentation and dissemination of economic statistics and reducing the need for resident international experts;

(iv) To ensure that national accounts work is carried out as an integral part of a co-ordinated and comprehensive effort within the framework of developing and improving basic economic statistics.

Problems to be addressed

92. The United Nations system has been providing technical assistance to member States in economic statistics for more than two decades. In some countries, there has been a resident international adviser in national accounts almost continuously for twenty-five years. In spite of this, the national statistical service does not have the necessary skills to prepare national accounts estimates. The picture is the same with respect to all branches of economic statistics.

93. Most publications on economic statistics lag so far behind that by the time they are issued, they are only of historical interest. In the previous medium-term plan, it was stressed that statistical information plays an inadequate role in policy-making, planning, economic and social development, administration and business. One of the reasons for this is the poor quality of data provided and the delays in making them available.

Strategy for the period 1990-1995

94. The strategy to be adopted are as follows:

(i) The regional advisory services will concentrate on building up self-reliance on the part of national staff in the field of economic statistics by providing support theough a series of short missions to a number of countries. These will include the provision of on-the-job training and of more formal training sessions. Statistical offices will be encouraged to see national accounts not as just another set of figures to be produced in isolation, but as a framework for improving the collection and use of basic economic statistics generally. A series of workshops/working groups will be held in order to examine various aspects of the economic statistics programmes and to develop further the professional confidence and competence of the participants.

(ii) Workshops are planned in the following areas: statistics on new and renewable sources of energy (1990), the informal sector (1991), industrial statistics including the setting up of integrated systems (1993) external trade,financial statistics (1994), and national accounts (1995);

(iii) Studies are also planned in the following areas: agricultural statistics (1990), energy statistics (1990), collection of data on price and quanta and the calculation of related index numbers (1991), trends in the development of the construction sector in Africa (1991), trade statistics (1992); implementation of the 1990 revised system of national accounts in African countries (1993), balance of payments statistics (1995).

SUBPROGRAMME 3: CENSUSES AND SURVEYS

Objectives

95. The objectives of subprogramme 3 are:

(i) To assist African countries which have not yet done so to establish durable infrastructures for the collection, processing and analysis of integrated demographic social and economic data on household and household members;

(ii) To improve the coverage of population censuses, civil registration and other surveys;

(iii) To provide guidelines and other assistance in minimizing content errors in censuses and surveys;

(iv) To assist countries to provide timely and good quality data on special groups such as women, children and youth, the disabled and the aged;

(v) To provide a regional information service on environment, especially in relation to drought and desertification.

Problems addressed

96. With the exception of one country, all African countries have now carried out at least one modern census. This has led to an improvement in demographic data availability. The African Household Survey Capability Programme initiated in 1979 has also assisted a number of African countries to start a regular programme of household surveys. In spite of these improvements, Africa still lags behind the other regions in the availability of detailed and timely data to describe its fertility, mortality and migration, especially with respect to the determinants and effects of trends in these fields.

97. Problems to be addressed include data collection mechanisms and their improvement, the filling of data gaps, the promotion of a dialogue between data users and producers and data applications.

Strategy for the period 1990-1995

98. The subprogramme will continue to focus primarily on assistance to member States in the improvement of the demographic, social and environment statistics. In this context, advisory services will be provided on request to member States in population censuses, civil registration, population registration and household surveys.

99. Workshops, seminars and other meetings to be held will include: seminar on the impact of the 1985 Programme of Action on civil registration systems and vital statistics collection in Africa (1990), intergovernmental working group on coverage of special population groups in censuses (1991), workshop on housing statistics in Africa (1993), a workshop on environment statistics (1994) and an expert group meeting on recommendations for the 2000 round of population and housing censuses in Africa (1995).

100. Studies to be undertaken will cover: quality control in censuses and surveys (1990), use of sampling in African population censuses (1991), measurement of economic activity in African population censuses (1993), measures for the improvement of environment statistics (1994), and problems and methods of the 2000 round of population and housing censuses in Africa (1995).

Conclusion

101. In this paper, the performance of the ECA Statistics Division in implementing its 1984-1985 work programme is reviewed. The need for identifying useful performance indicators has been stressed. The approved work programme for 1986-1987 and the draft work programme narrative for 1988-1989 are presented. The objectives, problems to be addressed and the strategies to be followed in the next medium-term plan 1990-1995 have also been outlined.

102. The Committee is invited to:

(a) Comment on the work performance of the ECA Statistics Division during 1984-1985;

(b) Note the approved work programme for the biennium 1986-1987;

(c) Comment on the draft work programme for 1988-1989;

(d) Review and amend the inputs to the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995.

14. STATISTICS IN AFRICA

13.80 This programme is carried out by the Statistics Division.

13.81 The three subprogrammes, their programme elements and the related output planned for the biennium are described below.

Subprogramme 1. Statistical development

Programme elements

1.1 General aspects of co-ordination and development

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the third session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (first quarter, 1984);

(ii) Advisory services to member States, on request, on statistical organization (two missions in 1984, a/ one in 1985);

(iii) Reports to the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on a review of statistical organization problems in the region (fourth quarter, 1985); assessment of the effectiveness of national statistical services b/(third quarter, 1985); establishment of an African list of statistical priorities (fourth quarter, 1985);

(iv) Sales publications: Directory of African Statisticians (1984); Bibliography of African Statistical Publications (fourth quarter, 1985);b/ Statistical Newsletter (two issues per year);

(v) Substantive servicing of the working group on environment and natural resources statistics (fourth quarter, 1984).b/

1.2 Statistical data base development

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on development and maintenance of national statistical data base (one mission in 1984);

(ii) Computer print-outs of integrated social, demographic and economic data (four per year);

(iii) Biennial report to the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the inventory of electronic data processing equipment and related staff resources and applications (last quarter of 1985);

(iv) Sales publication: Directory of Electronic Data Processing Experts in Africa (first quarter, 1984);

(v) Substantive servicing of the training seminar on statistical data base development for English-speaking participants (third quarter, 1985).

1.3 Statistical training programme for Africa*

Output:

(i) Advisory missions to the centres for the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) encountering difficulties (one in 1984, one in 1985);

(ii) Substantive servicing of the biennial meeting of Directors of STPA centres (fourth quarter, 1985);

(iii) Report to the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on a guide syllabus for middle level courses in statistical training for Portuguese-speaking countries (second quarter, 1984);

(iv) Technical publications: Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) News (second and fourth quarters of each year), and Directory of STPA Centres (second quarter, 1985).

Subprogramme 2. Economic statistics

Programme elements:

2.1 National accounts, finance and prices

Output:

(i) Computer print-outs on national accounts and financial statistics (second and fourth quarters of each year); current sectoral deflators for African national accounts (second and fourth quarters of each year); price statistics, such as price indices, producer, wholesale, export and world market price (second and fourth quarters of each year); external transactions (third quarter of each year); and public sector statistics (third quarter of each year);

(ii) Substantive servicing of bilingual training workshop on national accounts (fourth quarter, 1985);

(iii) Reports to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on progress of the International Comparison Projects in the African region (fourth quarter, 1985); guidelines for a system of price and quantity statistics and their implementation in the field of transport (fourth quarter, 1985); comparative analysis of trends in growth and importance of the public sector c/ (fourth quarter, 1985); methodological study on rural price data collection c/ (second quarter, 1984); and improvement of raw material export price indexes b/ (third quarter, 1984).

2.2 National Accounts Capability Programme*

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on applying the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (three missions in 1984, three in 1985);

(ii) Reports to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on progress in implementing the United Nations System of National Accounts and the uses of the statistical data in Africa (fourth quarter, 1985); and progress in implementing the National Accounts Capability Programme (fourth quarter, 1985).

2.3 External trade statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on improving the coverage, timeliness and methodology of national trade statistics (one mission in 1984);

(ii) Computer print-outs on national trade statistics (first and third quarters of each year);

(iii) Report to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the survey of the current status of trade statistics, including reasons for delayed dissemination of data (fourth quarter, 1985);

(iv) Sales publications: Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa (Series A: Direction of total trade (fourth quarter of each year), Series B: Trade by commodity and by country (fourth quarter of each year);b/ and Series C: Summary tables (fourth quarter of each year).

2.4 Industrial statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on applying the international recommendations on industrial statistics and improving the coverage and timeliness of these data (one mission in 1984, one in 1985);

(ii) Computer print-outs on general industrial statistics and commodity production in mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water, including energy balance sheets (one, third quarter of each year);

(iii) Reports to the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers of studies on local processing of raw materials for export (fourth quarter, 1985); relationship between production and trade in African manufactured products (fourth quarter, 1985), and production, domestic use and trade in industrial raw materials (fourth quarter, 1985).

2.5 Other economic statistics

Output:

(i) Computer print-outs on agricultural statistics (one, second and fourth quarters of each year), transport and communications statistics (one, second and fourth quarters of each year); tourism statistics, together with supporting methodology (one, second and fourth quarters of each year);

(ii) Reports to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on developing and improving distribution statistics, including supporting methodology (second quarter, 1984), and on analysis of food production and imports (third quarter, 1985);

(iii) Substantive servicing of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Distributive Trade Statistics (second quarter, 1984); b/

(iv) Sales publications, African Statistical Yearbook (fourth quarter of each year); a/ African Economic Indicators a/ (fourth quarter of each year); Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa (fourth quarter of each year).

Subprogramme 3. Censuses and surveys

Programme elements.

3.1 Demographic and social statistics

Output:

(i) Computer print-outs on demographic and social statistics (one, second and fourth quarters of each year);

(ii) Advisory services to member States, on request, in demographic and social statistics (two missions in 1984, one in 1985);

(iii) Report to the Intergovernmental Working Group on Development of Civil Registration Systems and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa on the methodology and problems of development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection in Africa (second quarter, 1985);

(iv) Substantive servicing of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Development of Civil Registration Systems and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa (third quarter, 1985).

(v) Report to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on a study of possible approaches to the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning in Africa (fourth quarter, 1985).

3.2 Support to technical co-operation project: Regional Centre for Population Studies in Central Africa

Output:

(i) Technical assistance reports to States members of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) on the development of demographic and social statistics methodology appropriate to the UDEAC subregion (one, fourth quarter, 1984; b/ one, fourth quarter, 1985);

(ii) Substantive servicing of intergovernmental ad hoc meetings organized by the Regional Centre for Population Studies (CERP) in the fields of population censuses and civil registration (one in 1984, one in 1985), b/

3.3 Regional advisory service in demographic statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on organization, planning and conduct of national population and housing censuses in the 1980 round, processing and evaluation of census data and development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection (three missions in 1984, three in 1985);

(ii) Report to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the evaluation of the 1980 round of censuses in Africa (fourth quarter, 1985)

(iii) Substantive servicing of a training workshop on census-taking for French-speaking African countries (third quarter, 1984);

(iv) Substantive servicing of a training workshop on the use of statistical software packages (second quarter, 1984).

3.4 African Household Survey Capability Programme*

Output.

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on preparation of survey programme documents for countries requiring technical and financial assistance in the context of the global National Household Survey Capability Programme, establishment of active survey operations; and training and development of staff resources needed in establishing effective survey programme (four missions in 1984, four in 1985);d/

(ii) Substantive servicing of the Intergovernmental Working Group on organization, contents and methodology of household surveys (fourth quarter, 1985);

(iii) Reports to the Intergovernmental Working Group on study on the methodology for collecting, processing, analysing and utilizing integrated demographic, social and economic data (fourth quarter, 1985), b/ and measures for mobilizing technical and financial resources for the implementation of national household survey programmes (fourth quarter, 1985).b/

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS (AT REVISED 1983 RATES)

Other official travel of staff

13.82 The estimated requirements under this heading ($17,200) can be broken down as follows:

Subprogramme	$
1	4,200
2	6,000
3	7,000
Total	17,200

External printing and binding

13.83 The estimated requirements under this heading ($58,200) relate to the ECA statistical publications programme, including Directory of African Statisticians, Bibliography of African Statistical Publications, Statistical Newsletter, Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Series A, B and C, African Statistical Yearbook, African Economic Indicators and Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa. They can be broken down as follows:

Programme elements		$
1.1	General aspects of co-ordination and development	14,300
2.3	External trade statistics	24,600
2.5	Other economic statistics	19,300
	Total	58,200

---

* Highest priority

a/ One mission terminated

b/ Terminated

c/ Postponed

d/ Two missions postponed; one terminated.

ANNEX II

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1986-1987

14. STATISTICS IN AFRICA

13.136 The activities under this programme during the biennium are intended to address the lack of durable and efficient statistical infrastructures in many countries of the region that has resulted in considerable differences between countries in the provision of statistical information in support of policy formulation, development planning, research and administration. The problem has become more urgent because of the information requirements of the Lagos Plan of Action.

13.137 The programme will therefore concentrate mainly on technical assistance designed to develop statistical information to assist in the training of national statistical personnel and to deliver advisory services in the planning and conduct of national population and housing censuses and in integrated household survey programmes, and in the development and improvement of civil registration systems and the gathering of vital statistics. Efforts will also be focused on the important areas of environment statistics (drought and desertification). Emphasis will also be placed on the maintenance of a regional information service through the further development of the statistical data base.

13.138 The subprogrammes, their programme elements and related output are described below:

Subprogramme 1. Statistical development

(a) Resource requirements: regular budget: $612,200 (20.9 per cent of programme total).

(b) Reference: medium-term plan 1984-1989 (A/37/6 and Corr.1), paras. 22.62-22.65, as modified by A/39/6.

(c) Programme elements:

1.1 General aspects of co-ordination and development

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (first quarter, 1986);

(ii) Advisory services to member States, on request, on statistical organization (one mission in 1986; one in 1987);

(iii) Sales publications: (a) Directory of African Statisticians (first quarter, 1986), (b) Bibliography of African Statistical Publications (fourth quarter, 1987), and (c) Statistical Newsletter (two issues in 1986, two in 1987);

(iv) Reports to the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: (a) statistical activities (1984-1985) and statistical work programme (1986-1991) (first quarter, 1986), and (b) the African Statistical Association (first quarter, 1986).

1.2 Statistical data base development

Output:

(i) Advisory services to Member States, on request, on development and maintenance of national statistical data bases (one mission in 1986, one in 1987);

(ii) Technical publication for government statisticians and planners on computer print-outs of integrated social, demographic and economic data (one print-out each quarter of 1986 and 1987);

(iii) Sales publication: Directory of Electronic Data Processing Experts in Africa (first quarter, 1986);

(iv) Reports to the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: (a) review of national statistical data processing capabilities (first quarter, 1986), and (b) the ECA statistical data base (first quarter, 1986);

(v) Technical publications for and substantive servicing of a training seminar on statistical data base development for French-speaking government statisticians and planners (four publications, second quarter, 1986, one seminar, fourth quarter, 1986);

(vi) Technical publications for and substantive servicing of a training workshop on the use of software packages in statistical computing for English-speaking government statisticians and planners (two publications, first quarter, 1987; one workshop, fourth quarter, 1987).

1.3 Statistical training programme for Africa

Output:

(i) Advisory services to the centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) (one mission in 1986, one in 1987);

(ii) Substantive servicing of the biennial meeting of Directors of STPA centres (fourth quarter, 1987);

(iii) Reports to the fourth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: (a) a guide syllabus for professional statistical training (first quarter, 1986), and (b) the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (first quarter, 1988);

(iv) Technical publications: (a) STPA News (two issues in 1986, two in 1987); (b) directory of STPA centres (second quarter, 1986); (c) improvement of research at training centres (fourth quarter, 1987); (d) impact of guide syllabuses prepared for use at STPA centres and statistical offices on statistical training (fourth quarter, 1987); and (e) development in statistical organization and manpower since 1981 in the African region (fourth quarter, 1987).

Subprogramme 2. Economic statistics

(a) Resource requirements: regular budget: $1,026,700 (45.2 per cent of programme total).

(b) Reference: medium-term plan 1984-1989 (A/37/6 and Corr.1), paras. 22.56-22.70.

(c) Programme elements:

2.1 National accounts, finance and prices

Output:

(i) Computer print-outs on: (a) national accounts and finance statistics (two in 1986, two in 1987), (b) current sectoral deflators for African national accounts (two in 1986, two in 1987), (c) price statistics (two in 1986, two in 1987); (d) external transactions (two in 1986, two in 1987), and (e) public sector statistics (two in 1986, two in 1987);

(ii) Technical publications for and substantive servicing of a seminar on the system of national accounts review, for government statisticians and planners (three publications and one seminar, second quarter, 1986);

(iii) Technical publications for and substantive servicing of a working group on capital formation and national accounts at constant prices, for government statisticians and planners (three publications and one working group, third quarter, 1987).

2.2 National accounts capability programme*

Output:

Advisory services to member States, on request, on (a) applying the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (three missions in 1986, three in 1987), and (b) improving basic economic statistics as a prerequisite for further development of national accounts (three missions in 1986, three in 1987).

2.3 External trade statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on improving the coverage, timeliness and methodology of international trade statistics (one mission in 1986, one in 1987);

(ii) Computer print-outs on national external trade statistics (four in 1986, four in 1987);

(iii) Sales publications: Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa: (a) Series A: Direction of total trade (fourth quarters, 1986 and 1987), (b) Series C: Summary tables (fourth quarters, 1986 and 1987).

2.4 Industrial statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on applying the international recommendations on industrial statistics and improving the coverage and timeliness of these data (three missions in 1986, three in 1987);

* Highest priority.

(ii) Computer print-outs on general industrial statistics and monthly commodity production in mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water, including energy balance sheets (one in 1986, one in 1987).

(iii) Technical publications for and substantive servicing of a working group on energy statistics, for government statisticians and planners (three publications and one working group, 1987).

2.5 Other economic statistics**

Output

(i) Computer print-outs on: (a) agricultural statistics (two in 1986, two in 1987); (b) transport and communications statistics (two in 1986; two in 1987, (c) tourism statistics (two in 1986, two in 1987),

(ii) Technical publication for government statisticians and planners: review of transport and communication statistics (third quarter, 1986),

(iii) Technical publications for and substantive servicing of a working group on port statistics, for government statisticians and planners (three publications and one working group, fourth quarter, 1987),

(iv) Sales publications: (a) African Statistical Yearbook (fourth quarters, 1986 and 1987), (b) African Social and Economic Indicators (fourth quarters, 1986 and 1987), (c) Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa (third quarters, 1986 and 1987).

Subprogramme 3. Censuses and surveys

(a) Resource requirements: regular budget $634,000 (27.9 per cent of programme total).

(b) Reference: medium-term plan 1984-1989 (A/37/6 and Corr.1), paras. 22.71-22.75, as modified by A/39/6.

(c) Programme elements:

** Lowest priority.

3.1 Demographic and social statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on demographic and social statistics (two missions in 1986, two in 1987);

(ii) Computer print-outs on demographic and social statistics (two in 1986, two in 1987);

(iii) Technical publications for government statisticians and planners on a review of data availability on:
(a) indicators on women (first quarter, 1986);
(b) disability in Africa (first quarter, 1987);
(c) youth in Africa (third quarter, 1987);

(iv) Reports to and substantive servicing of the inter-governmental working group on possible approaches to the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning in Africa (three reports and one meeting, fourth quarter, 1986).

3.2 Support to technical co-operation project: Regional Centre for Population Studies in Central Africa**

Output:

(i) Technical publication for government statisticians and planning of member States of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa: development of demographic and social statistics methodology appropriate to the subregion (fourth quarter, 1987);

(ii) Substantive servicing of ad hoc meetings organised by the Regional Centre for Population Studies in the fields of population censuses, and civil registration (fourth quarters, 1986 and 1987).

3.3 Regional advisory services in demographic statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on the organisation, planning and conduct of national population and housing censuses, processing and evaluation of census data, and development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection (two missions in 1986, three in 1987).

** Lowest priority.

(ii) Technical publications for government statisticians and planners on: (a) methods and problems of African population and housing censuses (first quarter, 1986), (b) processing of census, civil registration and sample survey data (second quarter, 1987);

(iii) Reports to and substantive servicing of the inter-governmental working group on recommendations for the 1990 round of population and housing censuses in Africa (two reports and one meeting, third quarter, 1986);

(iv) Substantive servicing of a training workshop on census taking for English-speaking countries (fourth quarter, 1987).

3.4 African Household Survey Capability Programme*

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on: (a) preparation of survey programme documents for countries requiring technical and financial assistance in the context of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (one mission in 1986, one in 1987); (b) establishment of active survey operations (one mission in 1986, one in 1987), (c) training and development of staff resources for establishing effective survey programmes (one mission in 1986, one in 1987);

(ii) Technical publications for government statisticians and planners on: (a) methodology for collection, processing, analysis and utilization of integrated demographic, social and economic data (fourth quarter, 1987), (b) measures for the mobilization of technical and financial resources for the implementation of the national household survey programme (fourth quarter, 1987);

(iii) Reports to and substantive servicing of the inter-governmental working group on organization, content and methodology of household surveys (two reports and one meeting, fourth quarter, 1987).

* Highest priority.

3.5 Environment statistics

Output:

(i) Computer print-outs on environment statistics (two in 1986, two in 1987),

(ii) Technical publications for government statisticians, planners and policy makers on: (a) adaptation of the United Nations framework of environment statistics to African countries, with particular reference to ecosystems (fourth quarter, 1986), (b) data requirements for studies on desertification and drought in Africa (fourth quarter, 1987).

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS (AT REVISED 1985 RATES)

Established posts

13.139 Staff resources required to implement the programme outlined above are estimated at 312 work-months at the professional and higher levels, which would be provided by regular budget staff. The distribution of these staff resources by subprogrammes would be as follows:

Subprogramme	Work-months for established posts
1. Statistical development	84
2. Economic statistics	141
3. Censuses and surveys	87
Total	312

13.140 Provision of the required 312 professional work-months of regular budget staff resources would be made from existing posts (288 work-months) and by the creation of a new established post (24 work-months).

New post

13.141 A new post for an environment statistician at the P-4 level is requested for the biennium 1986-1987. Environmental degradation with its consequences, such as desertification and drought, is one of the serious problems facing the African continent. The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers at its second and third sessions discussed the issue and called on the ECA secretariat to begin work in the area of environment statistics. The ninth session of the Conference of Ministers of ECA dealt with the twin problems of desertification and drought. Thus a new activity, programme element 3.5, Environment statistics, has been included in the work programme.

13.142 The incumbent of the new post would be responsible for building up a data base on environment statistics, with particular reference to areas pertaining to desertification and drought in Africa. He would also be responsible for research and methodological studies in the field of environment statistics in order to enhance the usefulness of the data for policy-oriented applications and analysis.

Other official travel of staff

13.143 The estimated requirements under this heading ($18,600) are for the following purposes:

Subprogramme	Description of tasks	$
1	To discuss with government officials the organization and co-ordination of national statistical services and the development of national computerized statistical data bases.....	9,900
2	To discuss with government officials ways of improving the coverage, quality, timeliness and dissemination of international trade statistics and industrial statistics.....	5,800
3	To discuss the preparation of survey documents with government officials	2,900
	Total	18,600

External printing and binding

13.144 The estimated requirements ($18,100) for external printing involve a decrease of $49,200, as an increasing number of documents will be produced by internal reproduction. It is envisaged that one publication Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Series A, would need to be published externally with the funds requested under this heading.

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1988-1989

Subprogramme 1. Statistical development

1.1 General aspects of co-ordination and development

Output:

(i) Substantive servicing of the fifth session of the Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (First quarter, 1988)

(ii) Advisory services to member States, on request, on statistical organization (one mission in 1988, one in 1989).

(iii) Sales publications: (a) Directory of African Statisticians (First quarter, 1988); (b) Bibliography of African Statistical Publications (Fourth quarter, 1989); and (c) Statistical Newsletter (two issues in 1988; two in 1989).

(iv) Report to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on (a) statistical activities (1986-1987) and statistical work programme (1988-1993) (first quarter, 1988); (b) review of statistical problems and priorities in the region (first quarter, 1988).

1.2 Statistical data base development

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on development and maintenance of national statistical data bases (one mission in 1988; one in 1989);

(ii) Computer print-outs of integrated social, demographic and economic data (one print-out in 1988; one in 1989);

(iii) Sales publication: Directory of Electronic Data Processing Centres and Experts in Africa (one, first quarter 1988).

(iv) Technical publications for and substantive servicing of a training seminar on the use of software packages in statistical computing for French-speaking government statisticians and planners (two publications, first quarter 1988; one workshop, fourth quarter, 1988).

(v) Technical publication for government statisticians and planners on statistical computing on micro-computers (second quarter, 1989).

1.3 Statistical Training Programme for Africa

Output:

(i) Advisory services to the centres for the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) encountering difficulties(one mission in 1988; one in 1989);

(ii) Technical reports for and substantive servicing of the biennial meeting of Directors of STPA centres (four reports, one meeting, fourth quarter, 1989);

(iii) Technical publications: (a) STPA News (two issues in 1988; two in 1989); (b) Directory of STPA centres and associate centres (second quarter 1989) and (c) Directory of non-STPA centres (second quarter 1989).

Subprogramme 2. Economic Statistics

2.1 National accounts, finance and prices

Output:

(i) Computer print-outs on: (a) national accounts and finance statistics (two in 1988; two in 1989); (b) current sectoral deflators for African national accounts (two in 1988; two in 1989); (c) price statistics (two in 1988 two in 1989), (d) external transactions (one in 1988; one in 1989); and (e) public sector statistics (one in 1988; one in 1989):

(ii) Technical reports for and substantive servicing of a working group on improving the basic statistics required for planning purposes (three reports and one working group, third quarter, 1989);

(iii) Technical publications for government statisticians and planners: (a) Review of statistics on youth and women in agriculture and distribution (third quarter, 1989); (b) Methodological study on improvement of statistics on agriculture producer prices (second quarter, 1989).

2.2 National accounts capability programme

Output:

Advisory services to member States, on request, on (a) applying the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (three missions in 1988; three in 1989) and (b) improving basic economic statistics as a prerequisite for further development of national accounts (three missions in 1988; three in 1989).

2.3 External trade statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on improving the coverage, timeliness and methodology of international trade statistics (one mission in 1988; one in 1989);

(ii) Computer print-outs on international trade statistics (one in 1988; one in 1989);

(iii) Sales publications: Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa: (a) Series A: Direction of total trade (one each, fourth quarters, 1988 and 1989), (b) Series C: Summary tables (one each fourth quarters, 1988 and 1989).

2.4 Industrial statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on applying the international recommendations on industrial statistics, setting up integrated systems of industrial statistics and improving the coverage and timeliness of these data (two missions in 1988; two in 1989);

(ii) Computer print-outs on general industrial statistics and commodity production in mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water, including energy balance sheets (one in 1988; one in 1989);

(iii) Technical reports for and substantive servicing of a working group on improvement of data on small-scale and household industries (four reports and one working group, third quarter, 1989);

(iv) Report to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on statistics of new and renewable sources of energy (first quarter, 1988).

2.5 Other economic statistics

Output:

(i) Computer print-outs on: (a) agricultural statistics (two in 1988; two in 1989); (b) transport and communications statistics (two in 1988; two in 1989); (c) tourism statistics (one in 1988; one in 1989);

(ii) Technical publication for government statisticians and planners: Road transport statistics (second quarter, 1988).

(iii) Sales publications: African Statistical Yearbook (fourth quarters, 1988 and 1989) (b) African Social and Economic Indicators (fourth quarters, 1988, and 1989); (c) Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa (third quarters, 1988 and 1989).

Subprogramme 3. Censuses and Surveys

3.1 Demographic and social statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on demographic and social statistics (two missions in 1988, two in 1989)

(ii) Computer print-outs on demographic and social statistics (two in 1988 and two in 1989);

(iii) Reports to and substantive servicing of the intergovernmental working group on migration statistics (three reports and one meeting, fourth quarter 1988);

(iv) Technical publications for government statisticians and planners on:

(a) Population registers in Africa and other more conventional sources of demographic statistics (second quarter, 1988);

(b) Socio-economic indicators on women and youth derived from household survey data and other sources (third quarter, 1989).

3.2 Support to technical co-operation project in Central Africa: Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale (UDEAC)

Output:

(i) Technical publication for government statisticians, demographers and planners of member States of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) on Methods and problems of data processing in the 1990 round of population and housing censuses of the UDEAC member States (second quarter 1988);

(ii) Substantive servicing of ad hoc meetings organized by the UDEAC secretariat in the field of demographic and social statistics (one, second quarter 1989).

3.3 Regional advisory services in demographic statistics

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on the organization, planning and conduct of national population and housing censuses and development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection (two missions in 1988; two in 1989);

(ii) Technical publication for government statisticians and planners on study on registration of nomadic population (third quarter 1988);

(iii) Reports to and substantive servicing of the intergovernmental working group on processing of census, civil registration and sample survey data (three reports and one working group, third quarter 1989).

3.4 African Household Survey Capability Programme

Output:

(i) Advisory services to member States, on request, on the preparation of survey programme documents, establishment of active survey operations and training and development of staff resources needed in establishing effective survey programme (two missions in 1988; two in 1989);

(ii) Technical publication for government statisticians and planners on the experiences of the African region in household survey data analysis and applications (third quarter 1989);

(iii) Reports oo and substantive servicing of the intergovernmental working group on household surveys (three reports and one working group fourth quarter 1989).

3.5 Environment statistics

Output:

(i) Computer print-outs on environment statistics (two in 1988; two in 1989);

(ii) Technical publications and substantive servicing of the workshop for English-speaking countries on environment statistics (three publications, one workshop, second quarter 1988);

(iii) Technical reports for and substantive servicing of the workshop for French-speaking countries on environment statistics (three publications, one workshop, second quarter, 1989).

LIST OF PROFESSIONAL OF ECA STATISTICS DIVISION AS AT 1 JANUARY 1986

Office of the Chief

Chief of the Division	Mr. K.T. de Graft-Johnson
Chief, Environment Statistics Unit	Vacant

Censuses and Surveys Advisory Service

Chief of Section	Mr. R. Andrianasolo

REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICE IN DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS (RASDS)

Chief Technical Adviser	Mr. E.A. Colecraft
Regional Adviser (Data Processing)	Mr. J. Marc Hie [a/]
Regional Adviser (Census Cartography)	Vacant [b/]
Regional Adviser (Census Cartography)	Mr. O. Bocoum
Regional Adviser (Demographic Statistics)	Mr Hamady Sow
Regional Adviser (Civil Registration)	Mr A.Karim Diop

AFRICAN HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CAPABILITY PROGRAMME (AHSCP)

Household Specialist	Mr. J. Bielecki

General Economic Statistics Section

Chief of Section	Mr. A. Cummings-Palmer
Regional Adviser (National Accounts)	Mr. T.C. Jones [c/]
Statistician (National Accounts)	Vacant [d/]
Statistician (Industrial and Distribution Statistics)	Mr. A. Amelewonou
Statistician (National Accounts)	Vacant [e/]
Associate Statistician (Prices)	Mr. S. Kristiansen [f/]

a - Post vacant for 3 months in 1985
b - Post vacant since 1 October 1985
c - Post vacant for 12 months in 1984-1985
d - Post vacant since 1 June 1984
e - Post vacant since 1 January 1985
f - Post vacant for 18 months in 1984-1985

International Trade and Related Statistics Section

Chief of Section	Mr. M. Fall
Statistician (Trade)	Mr. Dogbe Kouassi
Associate Statistician (Data Bank)	Mr. Zewdie Gebeyehu g/

Demographic and Social Statistics Section

Chief of Section	Mr. R. Rakotobe
Statistician	Mr. T. Makannah

Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)

Training Adviser	Mr. K. Bockor
Training Adviser	Mr. E.F. Ching'anda

---

g - Post vacant for 5 months in 1984-1985.